

#### From the CEO

The volume of water pumped by WMI during July to December 2021 was 11.2 GL, 4% below the 5-year average.

The climate outlook for the Sunraysia region during January – March 2022 is likely to see average rainfall and above average temperatures.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has indicated that the River Murray will continue to flow at high levels over summer due to water storages at or over capacity and strong flows from the tributaries, and together with wetter and warmer weather, may result in water quality problems such as blue-green algae or blackwater.

WMI updates its website with the latest WaterNSW blue-green algae alerts and uses SMS if the alerts are heightened or urgent. It is important that customers manage water quality issues by ensuring they have tank storage with at least a 2-week supply of water. Where customers are leasing or renting out their properties, they should keep the leasee and/or agent up to date. Customers are advised to monitor tank supply levels and be prepared to isolate supply if necessary.

#### NSW government re-shuffle

Premier Dominic Perrottet has announced his new team. The Water Minister, Melinda Pavey, has been replaced with the Nationals MP for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson. WMI would like to thank outgoing Minister Melinda Pavey for her consultative approach to water policy and management and welcomes incoming Minister Kevin Anderson.

#### Cyclonic filter trial

WMI has recently installed a cyclonic filter near Bernarra Rd, Coomealla, as a trial to combat a localised snail problem.



Recently installed cyclonic filter will be trialled to assess the effectiveness of removing shells.

#### 2021 AGM Update

The WMI AGM was held on 30 November 2021.

All the business proposed was successfully completed, including:

- Appointment of one Member Director (Kevin Watson as Coomealla Director)
- Declaration of the Curlwaa Director vacancy (as no nominations were received); and
- Consideration of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements and auditor's report.

Second Quarter Invoice 2021/22 due for payment: 4.30pm on Monday 7 February 2022

> **On-call Officer** 24 hours/365 days Ph: 0428 596 428

Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, excl public holidays

Contact us: T: (03) 5027 4953 F: (03) 5027 4880 E: enquiries@westernmurray.com.au www.westernmurray.com.au Upcoming office closures:

Australia Day Wednesday 26 January 2022 Easter Good Friday – 15 April 2022 Easter Monday – 18 April 2022



The Board and management would like to thank all shareholders who attended or submitted proxies for the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM proceedings.

Shareholders can access the AGM minutes and presentation in the shareholder portal on WMI's website.

A copy of the 2021 Annual Report was mailed to each shareholder and is also available on the website.

### **Board Elects David Whitbread as Chair**

The WMI Board, at their first meeting following the AGM, held on 1 December 2021 re-elected:

- David Whitbread as Chair; and
- Allison McTaggart as Deputy Chair.

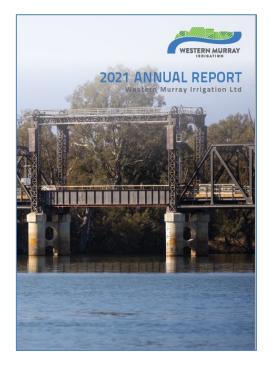
The Board also accepted Mick Goodrem's resignation as the General Member Director and, being eligible, immediately appointed him as the Curlwaa Director. This was to ensure all three irrigation areas are fully represented.

This created a casual vacancy for the General Member Director which will be considered by the Board in early 2022.

#### Second Quarterly Invoice Due for Payment

The second quarter invoice for 2021/22 is now available and due for payment on or before Monday 07 February 2022.

Please contact the office before the due date if there are any difficulties in prompt payment of accounts.



#### **Additional Water Fee Reminder**

Water usage above allocation is billed quarterly at \$1,200/ML.

Please ensure you **always have a positive water allocation balance** to meet your needs for the current irrigation season. Customers should contact the office staff for more information.

#### Water Ordering & Accuracy is Important

To ensure the WMI supply system works effectively, accurate water orders must be placed by irrigation customers.

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It is important that a water order is placed correctly before commencing irrigation, the flow rate and duration is adhered to, and cancelled if irrigation has ceased. Over ordering can cause other irrigators' orders to be rejected; under ordering can overload the system causing a loss of water pressure or, in the case of Buronga, cause the pump station to shutdown due to a leakage warning.

If a meter isn't correctly recording an estimate of water use will be used for billing purposes. Estimates are based on water ordered and/or historical use.

# NSW Water Regulator Issued Six Fines in the Wentworth Area

NSW's Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) issued six fines in the Wentworth area between July and September 2021.

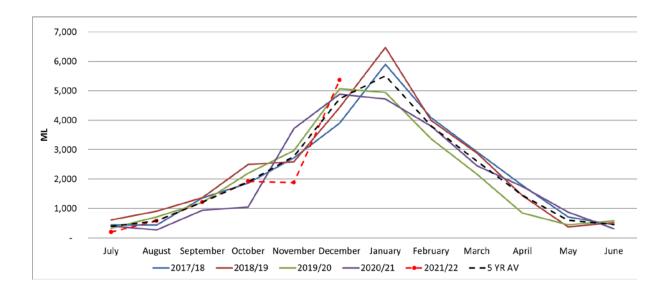
The Wentworth local government area (LGA) had the second-highest number of penalty infringement notices in the whole of NSW, only surpassed by Coffs Harbour.

Some of the fines were imposed on users for overdrawing water as it is an offence to go into debit on water accounts at any time.

In addition to the six fines issued in the Wentworth LGA during the September 2021 quarter, NRAR:

- Finalised 36 investigations;
- Commenced 21 investigations; and
- Issued two formal warnings.

Check out the NRAR website for more information: nrar.nsw.gov.au



#### **Total Water Pumped over 5 Years**



## Climate Outlook: January to March 2022

The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average rainfall but warmer temperatures for the Sunraysia region

