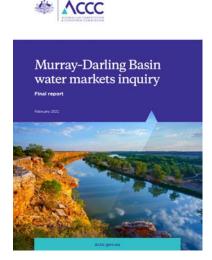


Newsletter April 2022

From the CEO

WMI has been involved in the Australian Government water reform consultations (in response to the ACCC's inquiry into the Murray Darling Basin water markets). The final roadmap is due in June 2022 and will seek to implement the ACCC recommendations in a phased, practical and cost-effective way.



Some of these reforms which will impact on our operations include digital infrastructure for trade; governance arrangements and a mandatory intermediary code.

WMI is also obliged to report water transactions and pricing in detail to the ACCC each year.

The ACCC's 11th annual water monitoring report (2019-20) has been released and some interesting findings include:

 Across pressurised networks, Lower Murray Water's Robinvale network has the highest typical bill at \$219/ML while WMI's Curlwaa network was the lowest at \$66/ML.

- Over the 11 years pressurised network bills increased by a modest 9% with the largest increase in Goulburn Murray Waters' Nyah network and in contrast WMI's Curlwaa and Coomealla networks had declines in all bills over the period.
- The ACCC conducted 10 investigations related to water matters but found no breaches of the water charge rules.



A full copy of the report is available on the ACCC website.

The last few months have also been focused on contributing to both the NSW and National Irrigator Councils' Federal Election policy platforms. A range of water, energy and funding recommendations include Murray Darling Basin Plan targets, water markets reforms and delivery shortfall solutions. The full policy platforms can be found on their websites.

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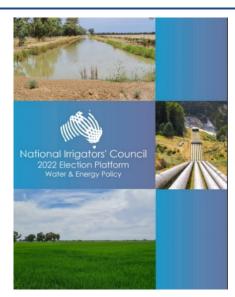
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The recent Federal Budget has also been welcomed by the National Irrigators Council, and the temporary fuel excise discount has already provided some relief through lower prices at the bowser.

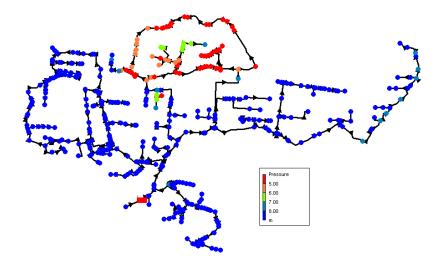
Board approves Coomealla pipeline upgrade capital expenditure of \$2.03 million

Laterals 36/39 (Gunya Rd, between Tip & Alba Roads) and 40 (between Comebunyee & Tip Roads) - just over 2km of pipeline - will be upgraded this winter to improve service delivery.

The schematic image (A) of the Coomealla supplypipeline network clearly shows areas of lower pressure (in green and red). This area is also undergoing significant horticultural development resulting in increased demand for water.

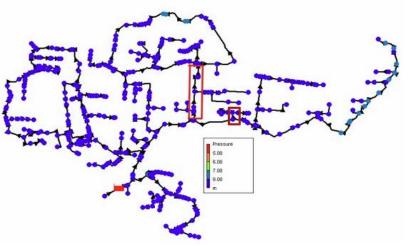
WMI will soon be appointing a construction contractor to undertake the works in winter this year.

Construction is expected to take place between June and August and affected customers will be contacted to discuss plans and water delivery arrangements before works begin.



A. Coomealla supply pipeline network – areas of lower pressure indicated in green and red.

The re-alignment and larger pipelines (located in the red rectangles, below) will significantly improve service delivery (outlets now depicted in blue shades).



B. Coomealla supply pipeline network post upgrade – pressure improved (indicated by blue).

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Winter maintenance program 2022

We have our scheduled winter maintenance program, planned for the 2022 winter period, with the main tasks including:

Buronga

- Overhaul motor C
- Overhaul pump D
- Install vibration monitoring
- Replace control room air-conditioner
- Install low-river pump for Mildura weir maintenance 21 June to 9 July; customers will be updated closer to the date
- Relift upgrade PLC; install vibration monitoring.

Coomealla

- Replace pump C with new KSB pump
- Balance tower inspection and maintenance
- Pump F1 overhaul (vibration)
- Relift overhaul pump/motor A.

Curlwaa

- Pump A overhaul
- Balance tower inspection and maintenance
- Pump C & G, check/replace suction/valve
- Transformer update (Essential Energy)

Mourquong

• WMI continues to maintain the Mourquong pump station, pipelines and outlets based on a service agreement.

WMI endeavours to minimise any interruptions and will alert customers to any planned or unplanned events.

New staff member

Customers may have already noticed a new staff member in the office: Kate Olofsson, Customer Service Officer.

Kate is keen to learn all about the water industry, and while in training, will be introduced to customers at the office.

Third quarterly invoice due for payment

The third quarter invoice for 2021/22 is now available and due for payment on or before Monday 9 May 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** in order to meet your needs for the current irrigation season. Customers should contact the friendly office staff for more information.

NSW Water Regulator's compliance activity in the Wentworth Area

NSW's Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) issued 3 fines and 3 formal warnings in the Wentworth area between October and December 2021. The fines were issued for taking water when insufficient allocation in the water account.

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For the whole of NSW during the December 2021 quarter, NRAR:

- Finalised 238 investigations;
- Issued 24 formal warnings and 42 stop orders; and
- 13 prosecutions in court.

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

Growing Smarter in the Mallee: Mildura 5 - 6 May 2022

The 2-day summit held at the SuniTAFE Smart Farm will showcase a range of AgTech tools including irrigation automation, remote sensing and yield estimation. Industry and researcher presentations, on-farm demos, trade stalls and an optional dinner are part of this initiative by the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre.

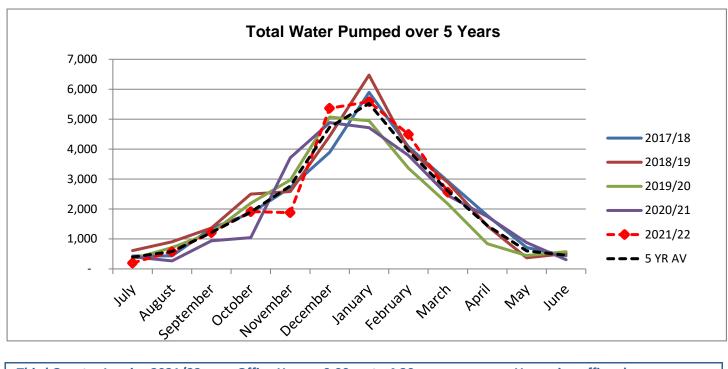
For more information visit: <u>www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/mric</u>

MDBA Water Conference: Mildura 1-2 June 2022

The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is hosting this year's water conference in Mildura.

The program will feature national and local speakers on challenges and innovations, community resilience and river health. It will include site tours, panel discussions and breakout sessions.

Tickets are on sale or you can view the livestream at no cost. Visit <u>www.mdba.gov.au/news-media-events</u>



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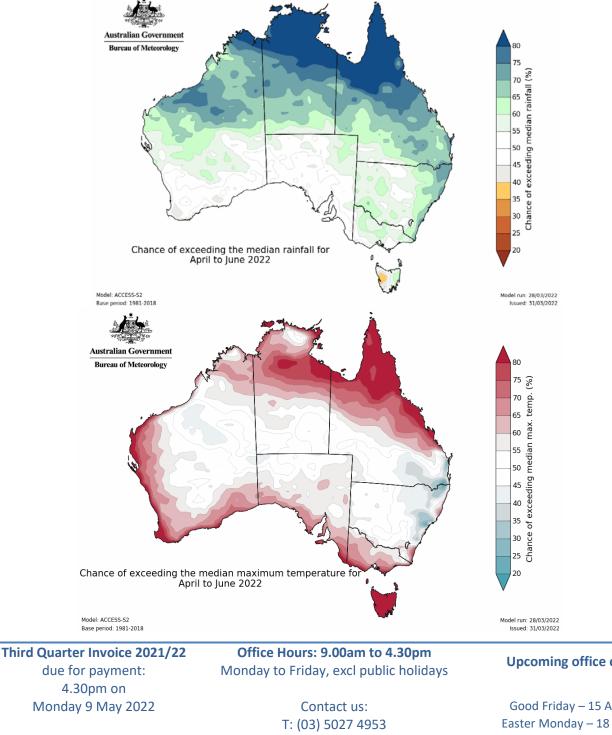
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Newsletter **April 2022**

Climate Outlook: April to June 2022

The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting wetter and warmer conditions for some parts of Australia:



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