

### From the CEO

The River Murray flooding finally peaked at Mildura and Wentworth mid to late December 2022.

WMI commenced preparing and maintaining infrastructure and assets with forecast high river flows in August.

Significant works to strengthen and maintain the 19km Curlwaa levee began in October and urgent repairs to a levee breach over the 19-20 November weekend were successful.



Strengthening the Curlwaa levee began in October 2022.



Section of levee breached on 19 November 2022 and was quickly repaired.



Wentworth Shire Council cut through Old Wentworth Road to alleviate the build-up of pressure on the Curlwaa levee from Tuckers Creek. Water was then directed naturally to Fletchers Lake.

**Second Quarter Invoice 2022/23**  
due for payment:  
4.30pm on  
Monday 06 February 2023

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

**Office Hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm**  
Monday to Friday  
(excluding public holidays)  
Contact us:  
T: (03) 5027 4953

E: [enquiries@westernmurray.com.au](mailto:enquiries@westernmurray.com.au)  
[www.westernmurray.com.au](http://www.westernmurray.com.au)

### Upcoming office closures:

Australia Day  
Thursday 26 January 2023

Easter  
Friday 7 to Monday 10 April 2023



It's been a very long time since Fletcher's Lake was full.

I would like to thank our team and contractors who were quickly on site working to repair the breach in quite hazardous conditions; Wentworth Shire Council for cutting through Old Wentworth Road to alleviate the water pressure from Tucker's Creek overflow; and to the Curlwaa residents who assisted and those that continue to assist WMI monitor the levee for any problems.

A prolonged peak is expected at Wentworth through to early January 2023 putting additional risk to the integrity of the levee. Repairs and reinforcement options are continually being assessed by WMI.

Widespread flooding has reduced water quality through a blackwater event. Warmer weather has also increased the risk of blue-green algae blooms. These conditions are likely to continue for some time causing filtration and other problems for customers. WMI will update our website with the latest alerts and use SMS when the alerts change.

### **Do you have excess Delivery Entitlements and/or outlets that are oversized or no longer used?**

Customers considering terminating their excess Delivery Entitlements have only until **31 January 2023** to access the 80% discount offer.

Customers are strongly encouraged to discuss options by phoning WMI on (03) 5027 4953 or emailing [enquiries@westernmurray.com.au](mailto:enquiries@westernmurray.com.au).

WMI has announced changes to the charging system from 1 July 2023.

As part of the changes WMI is now offering:

- An 80% discount on the Delivery Entitlement (DE) termination fee (conditions apply)

- An expression of interest process for permanent transfers of DE's
- Free downsize or removal of outlets

More information is available on the WMI website under "2023/24 Fees and Charges".

### **2022 AGM Update**

The WMI AGM was held on 29 November 2022.

All business proposed was successfully completed, including:

- Appointment of one Member Director (Matthew Cottrell as Buronga Director)
- Declaration of the General Member vacancy (as no nominations were received); and
- Consideration of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements and auditor's report.

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.

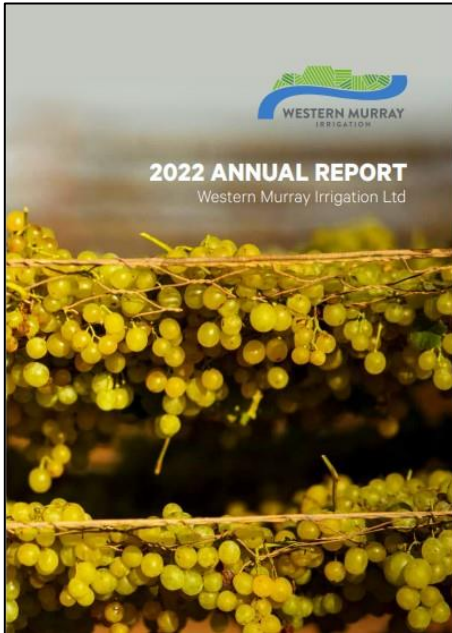
### **Board Elects David Whitbread as Chair**

The WMI Board, at their first meeting following the AGM, held on 30 November 2022 re-elected:

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

The Board also approved an increase to the number of Delivery Entitlements a NSW High Security Water Entitlement customer can hold before requiring security, effective immediately.

For High Security Water Entitlement (WE) customers, the ratio is now up to 8 Delivery Entitlements (DEs) for every 1 High Security WE. For General Security customers, the ratio remains at 5 DEs for every 1 General Security WE.



A copy of the 2022 Annual Report was mailed to each shareholder and is also available on the website.

### Second Quarterly Invoice Due for Payment

The second quarter invoice for 2022/23 is now available and due for payment on or before Monday 06 February 2023.

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

To have your quarterly invoices paid by direct debit from a nominated bank account, contact the office for a form and your invoice will always be paid on time.

### Additional Water Fee Reminder

Water usage above allocation is billed quarterly at \$1,200/ML (or part thereof).

Please ensure you **always have a positive water allocation balance**. Customers should contact the friendly office staff for more information.

### Water Ordering & Accuracy is Important

To ensure WMI's supply system works effectively, accurate water orders must be placed by irrigation customers (with meters 80mm and above).

It is important that a water order is placed correctly before commencing irrigation and that the flow rate and duration is adhered to. 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 shut down due to a leakage warning.

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

### Please continue to keep outlets clean

The recent wet and warmer weather has seen an abundance of plant growth including weeds and the emergence of snakes.

Customers are reminded to keep outlets free of weeds, equipment, and rubbish, ensuring easy and safe access for our operations staff.

### Prosecution begins over unlawful water take at Lower Murray vineyard

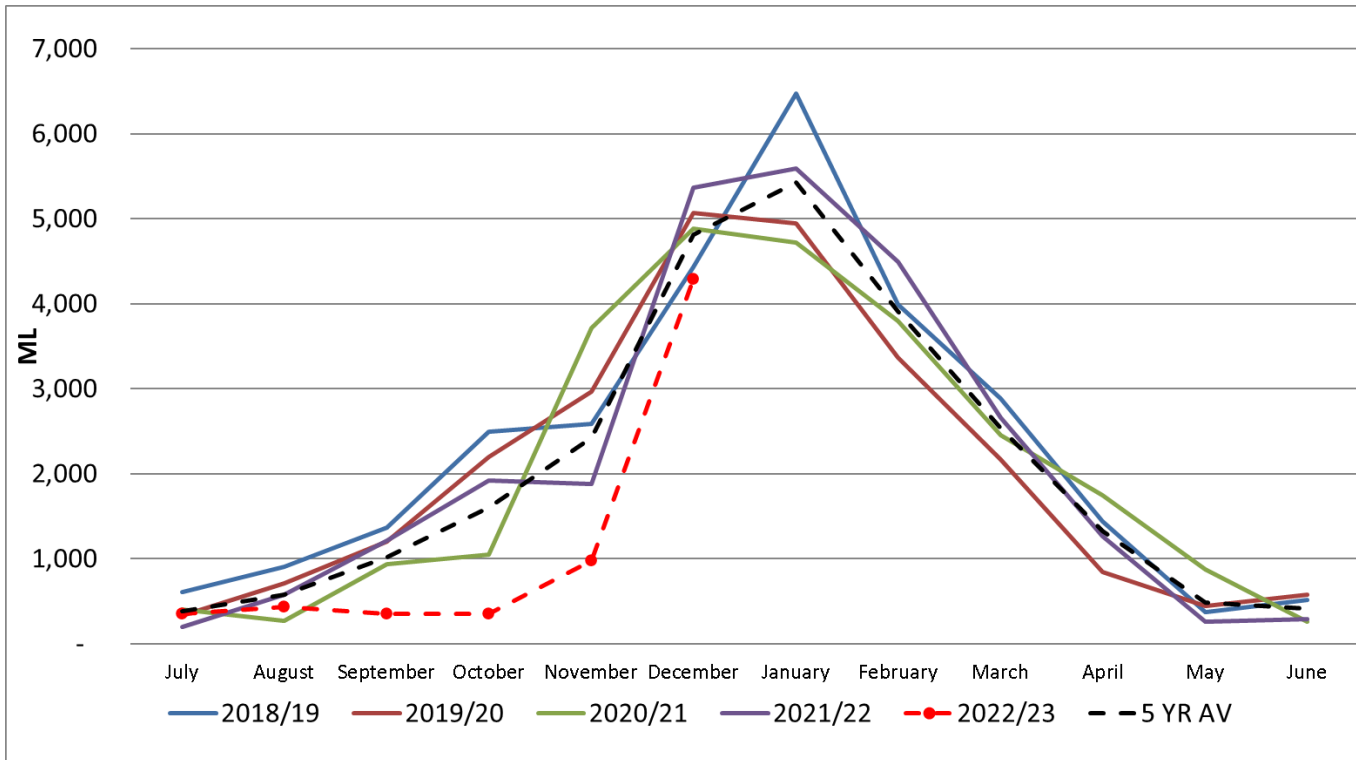
The NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has begun a significant prosecution in the NSW Land and Environment Court against a Lower Murray vineyard operator.

NRAR will allege that the former owner of a vineyard near Wentworth by-passed water meters and pumped up to 13,000 ML of water beyond their licence allocation.

The water was allegedly taken from the Darling River over four years between 2011 and 2015.

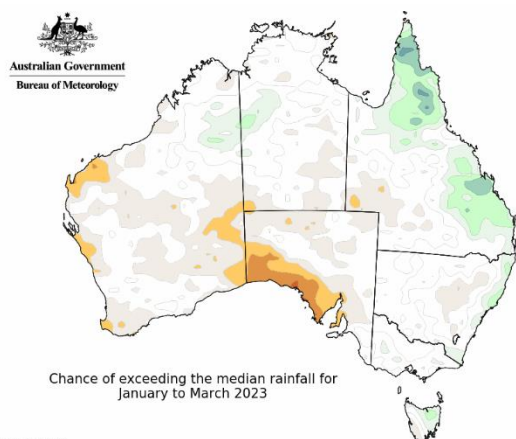
Quarterly reporting data gathered during July to September 2022 has also highlighted that illegal water take and water meter breaches remain the most common offence in NSW.

### Total Water Pumped Over 5 Years (including Year to Date)

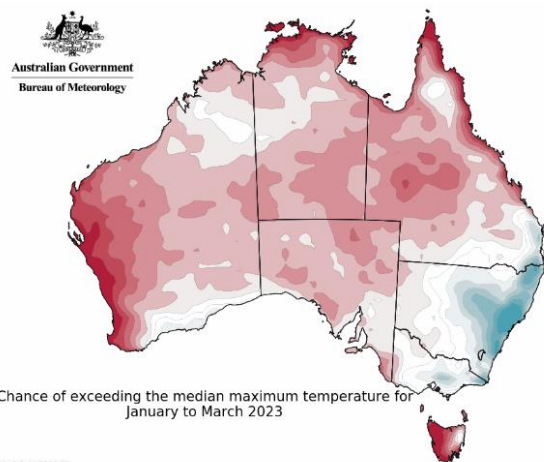
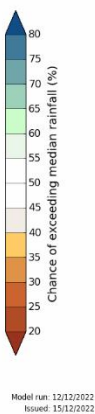


### Climate Outlook: January to March 2023

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average rainfall for Sunraysia for the January to March period, and maximum temperatures for Sunraysia are forecast to be slightly above average though minimum temperatures are forecast to be above average for January to March.



Model: ACCESS-S2  
Base period: 1981-2018



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