

From the CEO

WMI customers will have received a mailed copy of the 2023/24 Schedules of Charges in June. A copy is also available on the website.

These charges are the result of a lengthy and comprehensive review and consultation with the aim of:

- Simplifying the charging system;
- Better reflecting the user-pays principle to ensure fairness;
- Improving service delivery by more closely matching infrastructure and maintenance to usage;
- Ensuring financial sustainability for the company and its shareholders.

To assist all our customers transition to the new charging system, WMI offered:

- an 80% discount on the Delivery Entitlement (DE) termination fee;
- free downsize or removal of outlets;
- an increase to the number of DE's a NSW High Security Water Entitlement customer can hold before requiring security; and
- an expression of interest process for the permanent transfer of DE's.

As at 30 June 2023, there has been a total of 10,476 DE's terminated under the 80% discount offer (BGA 774; CMA 5,685; CWA 4,017). 39% of customers are yet to make their decisions in July.

As previously advised, a possible outcome is that DE's may roughly reflect the water usage in each irrigation area (meaning less DE's to trade). I would strongly encourage anyone who may be considering taking on more DE's permanently to contact the office

as soon as possible to express interest before the remaining 39% of customers terminate their DE's.

To date, 147 outlets have been downsized or removed.

I would like to thank all those customers who took the time to come into the office or host a one-on-one consultation with the WMI team at their home/business. The Board and management have also appreciated all customer and shareholder feedback, including concerns, which assisted in the Board's consideration of the outcome.

WMI crop report 2021 - summary

Since 2018 the irrigated area in the WMI area of operations increased by 40ha or 1.3%.

This increase was driven by permanent crops – up 105ha (seasonal crops decreased by 65ha). This is the first net increase in permanent plantings since 2003. Changes include:

- Citrus plantings increased by 95ha
- Wine grape plantings increased by 85ha
- Table grape plantings increased by 70ha
- Dried grape plantings decreased by 105ha
- Vegetable plantings decreased by 60ha
- Other fruit tree plantings decreased by 45ha

The trend towards drip irrigation continues with 78% (70% in 2018) of plantings now under drip irrigation; 16% (22% in 2018) under low level and 6% (8% in 2018) on overheads.

Fourth Quarter Invoice 2022/23

due for payment:

4.30pm on

Thursday 31 August 2023

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

E: enquiries@westernmurray.com.au

www.westernmurray.com.au

Upcoming office closures:

Labour Day

Monday 2 October 2023

Buronga

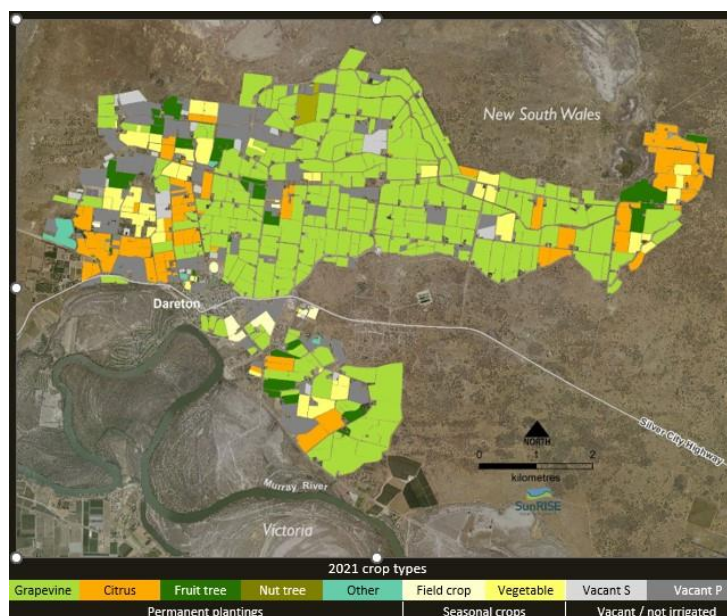
- Net increase in the irrigated area by 20ha or 5%.
- Main crops are citrus (53%); wine grapes (35%); table grapes (7%) and vegetables (5%).

Curlwaa

- Net decrease in the irrigated area by 20ha or 4%.
- There is now 44% vacant (previously irrigated) area – the highest since 1997.
- Main crops are citrus (45%); wine grapes (34%); seasonal/field crops (11%); and table grapes (3%).

Coomealla

- Net increase in the irrigated area by 40ha or 2%.
- Main crops are wine grapes (59%); citrus (15%); seasonal crops (10%); other fruit/nut trees (6%)’ dried grapes (5%) and table grapes (4%).



Fourth Quarterly Invoice Due for Payment

The fourth quarter invoice for 2022/23 is now available and due for payment on or before Thursday 31 August 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.

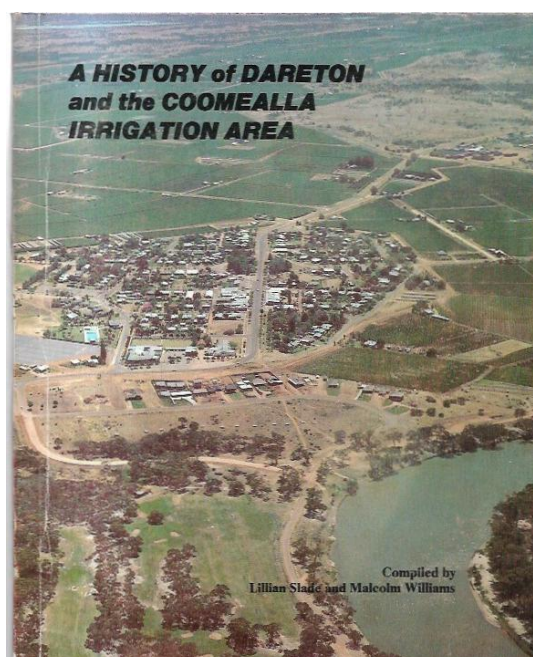
Coomealla Centenary 2024

Dareton-Coomealla will be celebrating its Centenary in 2024.

A group of local residents have been volunteering for the past 12 months to plan a weekend of celebrations, display and commemorative material during April 2024 to showcase the rich history of the district. WMI is assisting the group to update a 1982 book “A History of Dareton and the Coomealla Irrigation Area”

WMI is seeking authorisation from Coomealla farm customers to include their names in the updated Farm Directory component of the book.

We would encourage Coomealla farm customers to respond by 31 July.



2023/24 Fees - First Invoice for 100% of Delivery Entitlements issued on 1 July 2023

The first invoice for 100% of Delivery Entitlements (DE's) owned for 2023/24 is soon to be mailed to you and will be due for payment on or before Thursday 31 August 2023 or by four equal quarterly instalments due on 15 November, 15 February, 15 May, and 31 August each year (irrespective of whether you temporarily trade any DE's).

For those customers terminating DE's in July under the 80% Discount Offer, a credit note will be raised for the terminated quantity upon successful completion of that process.

Additional Water Fee Reminder

Please ensure you **always have a positive water allocation balance**.

The Additional Water Fee will be charged when it occurs at \$1,200/ML (or part thereof), i.e. when the customer does not bring their negative water allocation account back into a positive balance within 5 days.

The Additional Water Fee is also charged at 30 June each year when the customer has gone over their water allocation for that irrigation season.

Delivery Allowance can be Temp Traded

The annual temporary transfer of delivery allowance from one customer in the same irrigation area to another customer in the same irrigation area is possible, at any time throughout the year.

A temporary transfer means the customer who receives the delivery allowance enjoys the reduced cost of using water (for one season) by reducing the impact of the higher Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee (casual user).

The new delivery allowance trading system is more flexible and reactive for customers exceeding their water allocation in any one quarter, i.e. providing the customer going over allocation, trades in delivery allowance (and successfully completes the process)

before the last business day of that quarter (30 September, 31 December, 31 March, 30 June) they will not incur the Usage Above Delivery Allowance Fee.

Customers wishing to buy and/or sell both delivery allowance and water allocation may list a quantity and price on WMI's new customer portal, soon to be released. Watch out for further information on the new customer portal.

WMI staff are happy to assist customers understand the temporary transfer system.

Winter Maintenance Update

We have our scheduled winter maintenance program underway with the main tasks including:

Buronga

- Suction butterfly valves regrease post flood
- Overhaul pump C (pump received back)

Coomealla

- Main valve to balance tower re-seal (August)
- Balance tower inspection/clean (August)
- Auxiliary pumps re-install (complete)
- Main pump station Pump E – replace with new KSB (August)

Curlwaa

- Dismantle & grease main valves
- Balance tower inspection and clean (August)
- Transformer update (Essential Energy)

Mourquong

- WMI continues to maintain the Mourquong pump station, pipelines and outlets based on a service agreement
- Pump 2 & isolation valve – inspect & replace post flood (September)
- Pump 1 overhaul (September)

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

Staff changes

Retirements

WMI would like to thank:

- Garry Matulick, Drainage Office, for his valued contributions over 26 years. Garry finished on the 30 June; and
- Narelle Heard, Chief Financial Officer, for her dedicated contributions over 7 years. Narelle will finish up at the end of August.

Resignations

WMI would like to thank:

- Lena Langanke, Financial Accountant, for her significant contributions over 14 years; and
- Terry Ryan, Irrigation Officer, for his dedicated work over the last 4½ years.

We wish them all the best in their new roles.

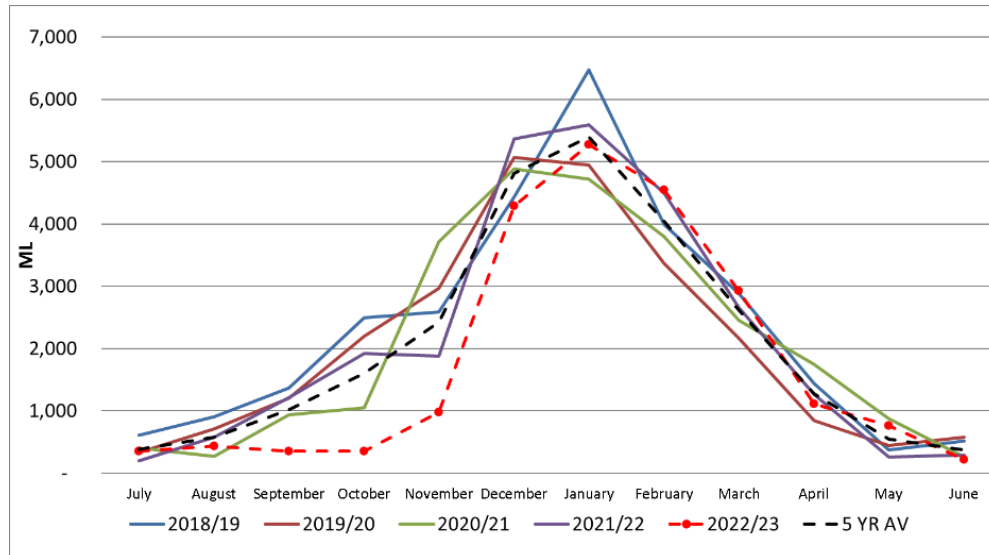
New staff

WMI would like to welcome Brent Williams as Civil Infrastructure Officer. Brent commenced on 26 June.

Recruitment is underway for a Finance Officer, Irrigation Officer, and Chief Financial Officer.

Total Water Pumped Over 5 Years

The volume of water pumped by WMI in the 2022/23 year was 21,580ML, 16% lower than last year. Total water used was 14% below the 5-year average.



Climate Outlook: July to September 2023

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting below median rainfall for Sunraysia and warmer than median temperatures for almost all of Australia for the July to September 2022 period:

