



Lachlan Valley Water e-News

PO Box 819, Forbes 2871

October 2023

Lachlan Valley Regional Water Strategy

The draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy will be on public exhibition until 12 November 2023, which is when submissions are due. Information webinars conducted on 10 & 13 October have been recorded and are available to view. To view and download the consultation paper and the executive summary, and view the recorded webinars, [Click Here](#).

Lachlan Valley Water will be making a submission on behalf of our members, however if you would like to make a submission or share your ideas you can do so by [Clicking Here](#). Submissions will be accepted until 11.59pm on 12 November 2023.

River Operations

Wyangala Dam is currently sitting at 95%, releasing 1200ML per day from 4.30pm on Saturday 4th of November 2023. Lake Brewster is at 74.2% and Lake Cargelligo has reduced from 50.9% last month to 48.1% this month as a result of demand downstream. Carcoar Dam is sitting at 98% with little forecasted orders at this stage. It's likely that due to environmental needs and limitations of the repairs that Lake Cargelligo will sit at a maximum of 75% until at least the end of the calendar year.

WaterNSW Water Use Survey

WaterNSW Water Planning & Delivery South have recently sent a survey to WAL holders, to help forecast water demand for November 2023. WaterNSW are looking to convert future water usage surveys into a more user-friendly format, however in the interim they will be in MS Word. The survey for November has been included in the same email as this newsletter, so please complete it and return it to -

wpdsouth.survey@waternsw.com.au

Meeting with NSW Water Minister

Last week Tom Green, Nick Turner and I (Glenn Daley) met with the NSW Water Minister Rose Jackson in her Sydney offices. We discussed WaterNSW's performance since the restructure including the significant increase in cost to the Lake Cargelligo embankment project and their lack of transparency, in addition to our disappointment with the "hollow" Lachlan Regional

Water Strategy. The Minister advised she shared our concerns regarding the Lake Cargelligo project and advised us to meet with her again to discuss once we'd had an opportunity to make comment on WaterNSW's Pricing Proposal to IPART later in the year. She further encouraged us to provide her detail on what projects/actions that we'd like to see included in the Regional Water Strategy.

Minister's Visit to Orange

The NSW Minister for Water Rose Jackson visited Orange last week to meet with locals and local government to discuss drought mitigation. During her visit she provided progress on a \$6.2 million infrastructure project to boost water security for townships during dry conditions. The project, which can be used in emergency drought conditions includes:

- \$5.5 million to connect Cowra and the Central Tablelands Water (CTW) systems, so the region can share water when supplies hit critically low levels.
- \$150,000 to help Central Tablelands Water bring plans to upgrade its water mains network to the tender-ready stage.
- \$577,500 for Cabonne Shire Council to accelerate investigative works that will determine the best infrastructure options to help future proof water for its residents.

To read more about the project and the minister's visit, [Click Here](#).



Work continues on the new 12 megaliter water reservoir at Carcoar.

80/20 Pricing Survey - Extension

By now you should have received the link to our pricing survey to gauge interest in switching a pricing model from the current 60% of costs fixed/upfront, and 40% usage/variable to an 80% fixed, and 20% usage – the

email was sent out on Tuesday the 24th of October. If you'd like the email containing the background information again, please let me know by emailing me at eo@lvw.com.au. Time to complete the survey has been extended until the end of November, and you can access the survey by [Clicking Here](#).

Non-Urban Metering Review

The non-urban water metering review public consultation paper was released last week with **submissions due on Sunday 26 November 2023**. During this period, DPE Water will facilitate **online information sessions** targeted at each region. These sessions will be held on:

- Northern Inland - Monday 13 November 9:30 to 11:00am
- Southern Inland - Monday 13 November 2:00 to 3:30pm
- Coastal - Tuesday 14 November 9:30 to 11:00am

The consultation paper, factsheets and registration for the online information sessions can be found on the DPE website by [Clicking Here](#).

Productivity Commission Report

The Productivity Commission released its interim Murray Darling Basin Plan report last week. Key findings from the submissions include:

- 61 per cent of submissions overall do not support the Bill, rising to 79 per cent of submissions from within the Basin.
- 56 per cent do not support water buybacks, rising to 76 per cent of submissions from within the Basin.
- 68 per cent of submissions support socioeconomic impact conditions on water buybacks, rising to 84 per cent of submissions from within the Basin.
- 100 per cent of Murray-Darling Basin local government submissions oppose the Bill.
- Most submissions support complementary measures to fix river health.

The Commission seeks feedback on the interim report by Monday 20 November 2023. To view the report and/or make a submission, [Click Here](#). This comes as the Senate Enquiry into the *Restoring Our Rivers* Bill began last week, with NSWIC, NFF, and NIC appearing before the Committee. committee. You can view the recording of the Committee Enquiry [Here](#).

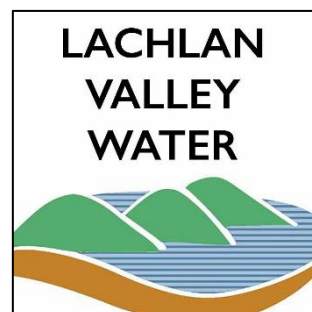
Membership Renewals

Membership renewals were sent out in October, and we've been pleased with the responses to date. It's also been a great opportunity to update our member master sheet with many of you advising us of changes in WAL ownership, addresses, and member details. Please bear with us as we work to consolidate member spreadsheets and update information. We aim to implement a working database in early 2024 which will bring efficiencies in managing and updating membership. Lachlan Valley Water Inc is funded purely through membership fees, which allow us to advocate on behalf of water users in the Lachlan Catchment area. If you would like to receive your membership renewal electronically, please email your contact details and WAL/Licence No. to admin@lvw.com.au

LVW Social Media

Hopefully you may have noticed an increase in our social media activity. If you're not following us, please do so! It's a month between newsletters so we'll use social media to post points of interest, non-urgent notices, and related workshops and activities.

Please visit our Facebook page, follow us, like and share posts, and encourage your network to follow us by [Clicking Here](#).



Please get in contact if you have any comments or questions about any issues in this newsletter.

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