



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 17th September 2024

GVIA Boardroom, 100 Balo Street, Moree

Annual General Meeting: 10:00 – 10:30am

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting held 25th March 2024
4. Chairman's Report – Jim Cush
5. Treasurer's Report – Boyce Chartered Accountants and Sarah Ball
6. Committee Election
7. Close

General Meeting: 10:45 – 12:00

1. NSW Connectivity Panel Report and implications
2. National Water Agreement
3. Murray-Darling Basin Plan
 - a) 450GL targets
 - b) Early insights
4. Aboriginal water entitlements program, strategic purchasing framework
5. General Business items.
6. Close



2023-2024 Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome

2. Apologies:

Sam Heagney, Mark Winter, Peter Birch

Present:

3. Confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting held 25th March 2024

Minutes as presented in Appendix 1 in papers.

Recommendation that the Minutes emailed 8 February 2023 and presented at the end of the booklet, are approved by those currently present as a true and accurate account of the Annual General Meeting on from 9th February 2023.

Moved:

Second:

4. Chairmans Report – Jim Cush

Welcome to the AGM today

There has been no letup in the issues which keep coming at us. It seems every week a new review or another submission is required to be done.

A very big thankyou to Lou for accepting the role of Executive Officer of GVIA,

We continue to work closely with NSWIC and NIC and the Northern groups meet regularly to try and stay sane.

The Connectivity report from a group of activist 'Experts,' has created uncertainty and with the rewriting of history it could open a can of worms, if the state Water Minister doesn't back track herself from most of the report.

For the record, all our rivers including the Barwon/Darling do in fact stop running from time to time if there is no inflow from rain or releases from regulating storages.

Sovereign Risk, A new term that as an Australian I had associated with African 3rd world nations is most certainly at the top of the list of consequences of poor policy that we are fighting against in the water space at the moment.

The National Water Agreement, which is attempting to update the National Water Initiative, the precursor to the writing of the basin plan, that signed in 2004 after ten years of review, consultation and analysis. The new proposal has over 300 principles, including trying to rethink how climate change is incorporated into Available Water Determinations (AWD) decisions. At present AWD's are made monthly on physical water that is available to be distributed into all





the different accounts. So if its dry no determinations are made, if its wet determinations are made. This rational process takes full account of current and future weather, if something is practical, applicable and rational why change it, I believe it should be left as is. Our submission to the federal government will indicate this.

We experienced firsthand what happens when things get changed, to try and make things simpler in April this year. A mistake was made by the department, and a section of the Carole Creek missed out on a supplementary announcement. This was a mistake that shouldn't have happened, but it did happen and should be made good.

With the Federal Government actively pursuing water recovery but playing politics by not accepting the volumes that have been offered thru the tender process. They are claiming the price is too high. The government are in full support, with the aid of the NSW government, of trying to change rules to deny access, they propose to turn rule change volumes into entitlements, and then transfer this to the CEWH for compensation by the Federal Government. But no compensation for entitlement holders who will suffer the access rule changes to create the volume. This is as flawed as the proposal by the federal government to tax unrealised capital gains in Super accounts.

Yet in the South of the state, they will just enter the water market to purchase any water they deem necessary to acquire. This is not right or fair and we will actively pursue this failed logic.

These are just a couple of the issues at the moment, no doubt Louise will raise more issues in her EO report.

A very big thank you to our levy payers for continuing to support the GVIA, as you can see the issues keep coming.

Thankyou

Jim Cush
GVIA Chair
M: 0428 657 608
E: jim@pechelbafarming.com.au

5. Executive Officer's Report

As indicated in our Chair, Jim Cush's report the last twelve months has been a rough road. We faced the Water Amendment Bill at the end of 2023, followed by the NSW Connectivity Panel Report, the ongoing rewrite of the National Water Initiative, a Non-urban Metering review, and for good measure we have received the Basin Plan Review Early Insights paper.

The Water Amendment Bill saw active engagement by the NSW Irrigators Council, and National Irrigators Council. Both organisations spend many an hour in Canberra doing what they could to minimise the negative of the proposals on the table. It unfortunately demonstrated how disconnected our federal politicians are from the reality of regional communities. It also demonstrated that decisions are too often made for reasons unrelated to the decision.

As a result of the Bill passing the additional 450GL environmental water can now come from anywhere in the basin, with indications that the federal department are targeting 70GL from the northern basin. They however don't want to pay for the water, so are looking at rule changes.





This links into the NSW Connectivity “Expert” panel review of the northern basin. The panel are supposed to be independent, and independent of government, but there seems to be rather a strong link to the Wentworth group, which rings alarm bells for any irrigator in the north. The final report was released in July but is not accompanied by any analysis of proposed outcomes, any assessment of recent changes such as licencing FPH which took significant volumes from our region, there is no analysis of the cost to implement nor practical understanding of whether the recommendations are even achievable. There is still much work to be done.

These two issues have then been followed up by the rewrite of the National Water Initiative. The massive list of principles is very concerning, with many potentially impacting water property rights. These along with all our other challenges still have a long way to go and we will be strongly advocating for entitlement holder’s [property rights and a fair reasonable approach to challenges in the northern Basin.

The last few months stepping into the Executive Officers role has been a very steep learning curve, but I look forward to supporting our members into the future.

Lou Gall
GVIA Executive Officer
M: 0427 521 498
Lou.gall@gvia.org.au

6. Treasurer’s Report – Boyce Chartered Accountants and Sarah Ball

Membership return rate remains high with 91% payment which includes 89% or \$46,332 from Floodplain harvesting.

Account Transactions

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.

For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Account Code & Name	Credit	Gross	GST	% Paid
1900 - Regulated Membership	167,115.15	183,826.73	16,711.58	94%
1910 - Unregulated Membership	16,347.60	17,963.62	1,633.13	65%
1920 - Supplementary Membership	66,297.17	72,927.00	6,629.83	95%
1930 - Groundwater Membership	15,307.69	16,834.99	1,530.21	82%
1940 - Inverell Basalt	125.55	138.12	12.57	16%
1950 - High Security	6,502.50	7,152.76	650.27	99%
1960 - Floodplain Harvesting	46,332.90	50,958.58	4,632.75	89%
1970 - Membership adjustment	607.73	658.36	59.92	33%
Total	318,636.29	350,460.16	31,860.26	90.61%

There remains fewer project on the books which continues to impact on office overheads.





- CottonInfo Irrigation Tech lead has continued project income was \$60,027, with funds \$7,851 carried over for activities in 2024-2025 financial year.
- The strategic Pig project has been finalised as at the end of June 2024. There was an opening balance of \$63,843, \$65,532 was paid in landholder reimbursement, and after allocation of a share of operating expenses total annual expenses were \$70,536, leaving a loss of \$6,691 at end of financial year.
- The Mimosa project still has funds available, \$20,504, which need to be returned to the NWLLS. Discussions are ongoing as to how to manage this.

Financial Statements are available on the website in the members log in, the balance sheet for 2023-2024 financial year is displayed below as with the profit and loss for the Members. Total enterprise profit and loss and the individual projects are all provided in the complete statements.



Statement of profit or loss

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Income			
Project Income			
Project income		60,027	50,070
Project funds held - Opening balance		84,349	91,117
Project funds held - Closing balance		(28,358)	(84,349)
Prior year member payment		719	180
Other Income		647	-
Total Project Income		117,385	57,017
Other income			
Membership		272,274	269,639
Interest received		3,350	1,805
Donation		4,500	-
Floodplain Harvesting		46,326	46,569
CGA Services		6,000	6,000
Commissions/Contractor		76,000	-
Total other income		408,450	324,012
Total income		525,835	381,030
Expenses			
Accountancy and audit		16,500	12,916
Bank charges		603	255
Depreciation		12,660	15,218
Electricity and water		4,872	4,156
Field days and events		-	778
Fringe benefits tax		6,568	6,598
In-field project expenses		-	18
Insurance - General		6,100	9,082
Insurance - Workers compensation		2,192	327
Landholder reimbursements		65,532	4,441
Legal fees		3,278	-
Licences, permits and fees		723	333
Meetings and conferences		3,100	2,720
Motor vehicle expenses		8,990	11,197
Newspapers and periodicals		103	66
Office overheads		6,802	6,071
Office supplies		4,128	1,185
Printing, stationery and postage		752	628
Producer tours		-	59
Promotional activities		-	(5,279)
Provision for annual leave expense		(3,249)	(6,149)
Provision for long service leave expense		(26,034)	11,579



Rates	5,359	7,322
Rent	42,327	36,694
Repairs and maintenance	380	656
Secretarial	8,336	8,759
Staff training	744	-
Subscriptions and memberships	37,169	32,336
Superannuation	21,821	21,622
Telephone	3,238	4,182
Travel and accommodation	11,302	19,038
Wages - Employees	217,232	199,486
Annual Return Fee	-	417
Total expenses	461,529	406,711
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	64,306	(25,681)

	NOTES	2024	2023
Retained profits			
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year		287,343	313,024
Operating profit for the year		64,306	(25,681)
Retained profits at the end of the financial year		351,649	287,343



Balance sheet

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.

As at 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Assets			
Current assets			
Trading account - ANZ		4,367	18,401
Trading account - ANZ External project		-	70,585
Trading account - ANZ Mimosa project		-	18,394
Trading account - ANZ CRDC 6636		-	-
Saving account - ANZ		-	144,018
Trade debtors		1,650	2,396
Term deposit - ANZ #6		-	35,515
Term deposit - ANZ #8		59,152	58,109
GST refund due		864	473
NAB GVIA Project #7229		18,582	-
NAB GVIA Savings #0213		150,999	-
NAB GVIA Business #0726		190,598	96,846
Total current assets		426,212	444,737
Non-Current assets			
Irrigation improvements (at written down values)		6,206	6,947
Improvements (at written down values)		1,431	1,723
Motor vehicles (at written down values)		26,993	35,990
Office equipment (at written down values)		7,290	9,530
Total non-current assets		41,920	54,190
Total assets		468,131	498,927
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Irrigation council levy		4,809	3,137
Credit card - ANZ visa		-	2,519
Credit cards - NAB		2,752	-
Trade creditors		8,695	12,756
PAYG withholding payable		2,640	7,302
Superannuation payable		3,204	6,211
Future project funds held		28,358	84,349
Provision for annual leave		42,217	45,467
Total current liabilities		92,674	161,742
Non-Current liabilities			
Provision for long service leave		23,808	49,842
Total non-current liabilities		23,808	49,842
Total liabilities		116,482	211,583
Net assets/(deficiency)		351,649	287,343



	NOTES	2024	2023
Member's funds			
Retained profits		351,649	287,343
Total member's funds and reserves		351,649	287,343

Recommendation that the GVIA Members note and adopt the Treasurer's and Auditor's report for the 2023-2024 financial year as presented, as a true and accurate account of the financial position of the organisation and we recommend that Jim Cush (Chair) and Sarah Ball (Treasurer) be authorised to sign the Financial Statements on the organisation's behalf.

Moved:

Second:

Proposed Organisation Budget 2024/25

Please note that the GVIA committee have endorsed the following budget for implementation in this financial year. We will be seeking input from members on any activities, they are interested in the organisation directing resources towards.

2024-25 Approved Budget	
Enterprise/Projects is 125 - members.	
Account	FY Budget
Trading Income	
Bank interest received	1,000
Commissions/Contractor	36,000
Donation	7,250
Floodplain Harvesting	63,000
Groundwater Membership	21,000
High Security	8,800
Inverell Basalt	150
Membership adjustment	600
Project income	50,000



Regulated Membership	230,000
Supplementary Membership	74,000
Unregulated Membership	22,000
Total Trading Income	513,800
Gross Profit	513,800
Operating Expenses	
Accountancy and audit	12,000
Bank charges	800
Bookkeeping	9,350
Cleaning	600
Conferences and training	1,000
Consultancy	10,000
Electricity and water	6,250
Field days and events	2,000
Fringe benefits tax	6,568
Insurance - General	6,120
Legal fees	5,000
Licences, permits and fees	400
Meetings and workshops	1,500
Motor vehicle expenses - EO	6,400
Newspapers and periodicals	300
Office and Staff Amenities	1,550
Office equipment and supplies	5,640
Printing, stationery and postage	1,200
Project management - Salary	12,300
Project Management - Super	0
Rates	7,500
Rent	39,600
Repairs and maintenance	400



EO - Salary	126,204
Secretarial	800
Staff training	600
Subscriptions and memberships	118,330
EO - Superannuation	15,926
Telephone	3,504
Travel - Accom/meals/ incident	8,700
Travel - Flights/mileage/taxi	21,500
Uniforms	470
Workers compensation insurance	2,500
Total Operating Expenses	435,012
Net Profit	78,788

GVIA Levy and invoicing for 2024-2025

The budget and past financial performance, financial reserves and earning capacity has been used to guide the recommendation. The return rate has remained consistently above the 85% budgeted target with the majority of eligible members contributing.

The GVIA committee have recommended maintaining the \$0.45/ML levy. They continue to endorse invoicing NSWIC levy of \$0.125/ML as a separate line item, and to introduce the NIC levy of \$0.06/ML NIC levy as separate line item in GVIA membership invoices. Membership invoices are proposed to be sent in October 2024.

Recommendation that the GVIA annual levy remain at \$0.45/ML of entitlement, and that the NSWIC and NIC levy's are invoiced as separate line items with a minimum bill of \$30 plus GST.

Moved:

Second:

7. Committee Election

Nominations have been received from:

Mark Winter	Kirra-lee McNamara
Sarah Ball	Mick Humphries
Bernie George	Jim Cush





Michael Seery	Alex Harris
Sam Heagney	Peter Birch

We are required to have a minimum of 11 committee members. Under rule 15 (2) of the GVIA constitution, if insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.

We received 10 nominations, and the organisation is required to have a minimum of 11 committee members. Under rule 15 (2) of the GVIA constitution, if insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting. If no nominations are received from the floor, the committee can decide to hold a casual vacancy.

Motion to accept 10 committee members nominated.

Moved:

Seconded:

Request for nominations from the floor.

Selection of Office bearers

Position	Nominee	Nominated	Second	Accepted
Chair				
Vice Chairs				
Treasurer				

The GVIA Committee agreement indicates that Committee members are required to provide an alternate for meetings. This person must also be a financial member of the Association to be eligible.

This is a good way to support succession planning for the GVIA.

Could all committee members please nominate an alternate via email to Lou.gall@gvia.org.au.

Thank You

8. Close



General Meeting: 10:45 – 12:00

1. NSW Connectivity Panel Report and implications
2. National Water Agreement
3. Murray-Darling Basin Plan
 - a) 450GL targets
 - b) Early insights
4. Non-urban metering recommendations
5. General Business items.
 - a) NSWIC directors' nominations
 - b) Review of the GVIA strategic plan
6. Close

1. NSW Connectivity Panel Report and implications

The report recommends a range of proposals to be applied in non-dry times, transitional periods (i.e. when the system begins to enter a dry stage), and during dry times. The recommendations are essentially rules to restrict supplementary, floodplain harvesting across the northern basin and B and C class licences in the Barwon Darling.

The minister is distancing herself from the report, specifying that it is not government policy, yet her department appears to be more supportive.

Indications are that we have indicated that we support rule changes, this is a liberal extension of our preference for current water sharing plan rules as opposed to s324 temporary restrictions, which history shows are too often used for political reasons, as opposed to critical needs.

The Northern valleys have developed the following key messages:

- Northern Valleys do not see a need for further water recovery from the northern basin.
- The northern valleys do not support the aspirational proposals put forward in the Connectivity Panel Report.
- The MDBA has stated that 320GL water recovery in the North is sufficient to satisfy Environmental Sustainability Levels of Take.
- Actual take as audited by the MDBA and the Inspector-General, has been consistently well below the SDL allowed under the Basin Plan.





- Irrigators from the Northern Basin do not support the use of rule changes to recover more water for the environment, whether to improve connectivity, deliver water towards the Commonwealth's 450 GL target or both.
- Any water the government wants to contribute to connectivity or the 450GL target should be purchased from the market. We do not support water being taken away by rule changes without compensation.
- Northern Valleys accept the application of existing rules in WSPs to share the water resource in a fair and equitable manner.
- We do not support use of Section 324, temporary restriction orders in the NSW Water Management Act 2000 without firstly using the Water Sharing Plan sharing rules nor without the application of the following general principles.
 - ability for the inflows to meaningfully contribute to meeting critical water needs downstream.
 - uncertainty in future rainfall and flow predictions.
 - utilisation of flow forecasting.
 - recognition of system operation capacities and efficient water delivery to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefit of water use.
- Environmentally driven rules based water recovery in the Northern Basin have not delivered intended benefits.
 - For example: The 90:10 supplementary flow sharing rule in the Namoi impacts communities (Narrabri, Wee Waa, Burren Junction and Walgett), but the native fish benefits for which it was implemented have not eventuated. This is supported by Fisheries.
 - This rule sees droughts begin sooner, and droughts end later – exactly what any further rule based recovery will do to the Northern Basin.

2. National Water Agreement

The original National Water Initiative (NWI) set the blueprint for water reform in Australia over the past two decades and is a fundamental underpinning of Australia's water management. The original NWI was the product of nearly a decade of consultation with jurisdictions and stakeholders (from the 1994 COAG meeting when it was conceived, to 2004 when it was signed). This process involved shaping principles (formerly 'actions') adopted from state jurisdictions that were demonstrated as working well, as well as researching and trialling potential new approaches during this time. This practical 'bottom-up' approach ensured the NWI was respected as providing a roadmap forward. It was and remains world leading framework.

The current approach to the now newly names National Water Agreement has not adopted the same best-practice, evidence-based, or consistent stakeholder engagement process. The draft principles lack the rigor and consideration of the existing water rights and their value to Australians to produce food and fibre. The new agreement needs substantial further work to





ensure no unintended, perverse policy outcomes arise during the delivery phase. There is almost no reference to agriculture or irrigation, but priorities specified for some sections of society. The UN declaration of human rights specifies all people are equal, our National Water Agreement should reflect this.

There are over 300 principles, the highest risk principles are detailed in the brief “Primary risks of draft NWA principles Sept 2024.”

3. Murray Darling Basin Plan

450GL framework

The passing of the Water Amendment bill in November 2023, adjusted the basin plan so that the 450GL additional environmental water can now be acquired from any where in the basin, not just the southern connected system as originally intended.

There are numerous assumptions as to what volume is being targeted from northern valleys, the most referenced volume is 70GL.

The 450GL framework outlines mechanisms which may be utilised to

1. Resilient Rivers water infrastructure Program – focused principally on efficiency measures.
2. Alternative water recovery opportunities
 - a. Land and Water partnerships
 - b. Rule changes: This if focused principally on the northern basin. Department staff believe it is the only way to get water from the north.

In the draft framework in the information on “Northern Basin Water Recovery” they stated the following:

“water markets in the northern Basin are comparatively ‘thin’. The volume of total entitlements issued is lower than in the southern Basin and there is significantly less trade. Rule based changes that improve connectivity have greater potential to enhance environmental outcomes by leaving more water in rivers at key times. It is important to note that, rule based changes still require the transfer of water entitlements.”

“ Significant work on potential rule changes is already underway. The NSW Government Northern Basin Connectivity Program is progressing connectivity improvements identified as part of the Western Regional Water Strategy. This includes analysis to inform potential changes to water sharing plan flow targets (triggers) to improve water flows across the connected catchments of the NSW northern Basin at important times.”

The final framework states the following under rule changes:

- “Basin state changes to water management rules may contribute to 450 GL targets if the changes:
- reduce water available for consumptive use





- *create water savings that are converted into a water entitlement that can be held for environmental purposes”*

The justification is that

- “Adopting rules changes under the 450 GL program has significant potential to:
 - enhance environmental outcomes, by leaving water in rivers at key times in the drought
 - manage socio-economic impacts, through predictable reductions in water use.
- In the southern Basin, rule changes can contribute to the SDLAM”

The proposed mechanisms are as follows:

- “Basin states can bring forward rules based water recovery proposals to the Australian Government.
- These will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine their potential to contribute to the 450 GL target

c. Commercial mechanisms

3. Voluntary Water Purchases

This further reinforces our need for a strong stand against rule changes as a means of acquiring additional environmental water for the 450GL or for connectivity.

Basin Plan Review Early Insights (June 2024)

The MDBA are currently conducting their 10 year review of the Basin Plan. AS part of that there is an evaluation which requires inputs by 31st Oct from basin states, CEWH, the federal government and the MDBA. There will be engagement in peaks and community forums. Comments from the Authority indicate that they are not looking for consensus and are accepting parts of the basin are different.

The evaluation is being conducted on the achievements as of 30th June 2024, so will not account for implementation not yet achieved. It is to be based on real outcomes not modelling and is at a basin wide scale. It is due to be released in June 2025 with the Sustainable Rivers Audit.

An important component of the paper is an assessment of the effectiveness of SDLs. These have addressed over allocation and delivered environmental outcomes. The review proposes to assess the confidence the authority has in the SDL’s and management settings to support environmental outcomes. In areas where there is low confidence it is proposed to work to validate the outcomes and develop a response to address the drivers of the poorer outcomes. The response may include Fish passage, Timing of environmental water and flow rates, Infrastructure, addressing constraints, Pest control or Restoration of riparian areas.

Indications are that they will use the Long Term Watering Plans to “improve our understanding of how much water is needed to support key environmental assets, ecosystems, and functions across the Basin.” We would argue that they may not provide a balanced perspective.

The Review covers 5 areas:





- Assessing environmental outcomes
- Preparing for plausible climate future
- Moving beyond just add water
- Managing the northern Basin
- Building on and simplifying the basin plan.

Singling out the north for attention is concerning, although it does recognise that the northern system has minimal storage, is incredibly event bases and there is limited ability to manage it.

Once again, they fall back to implementing rules to achieve objectives. At the cotton conference Andrew McConville referred to managing the north with rules and the south with flows.

GVIA Policy Position

GVIA is firmly opposed to water recovery by rule changes as it represents a shift from voluntary participation to compulsory acquisition.

Property rights are fundamental to members of the GVIA.

Water recovery for the implementation of the Basin Plan or for connectivity must be achieved through market mechanisms.

4. Non-urban metering recommendations

Recommendations were released in August 2024. It has provided little constructive change for users in the Gwydir.

They have introduced a new low volume exemption and recommended the following:

- Amend the Regulation to exempt water supply works (excluding surface water pumps with a diameter of 500 mm or more) that are nominated by access licences with a cumulative share component of 15 ML per year or less (or equivalent) from the mandatory metering condition. Note, meters are required if trading water.
- Amend the Access Licence Dealings Principles Order 2004 to ensure trade requirements reflect appropriate metering standards (including to refer to AS4747).

The requirement to have meters when trading water will be problematic for small ground water users who use their infrastructure for stock and domestic and trade a proportion of their licence annually.

There have also been changes to measurement options for Unregulated overland flow.

- Amend the Regulation to enable use of more practical methods to measure overland flow that is taken under an unregulated access licence from multiple intake points or by intercepting diffuse flows, including the use of storage measurement equipment instead of non-urban metering equipment.



- If needed, further scope and determine practical means of measuring and/or accounting for different modes of water delivery, including environmental water delivery, subject to further consultation with water users.

Table 3. Summary of recommended metering and measurement requirements

Works	Measurement standard	By when*	Change from current requirements
All surface water pumps ≥ 500 mm	AS4747 compliant meter DQP validation LID and telemetry	Immediately	No change to measurement standard or timing.
All works nominated by total entitlement ≥ 100 ML, unless otherwise exempt	AS4747 compliant meter DQP validation LID and telemetry	Inland – Immediately Coastal – 1 December 2026	Groundwater works and surface water pumps in this category with a diameter of less than 199 mm will now need to be telemetry enabled (previously, local intelligence devices did not need to have telemetry capacity). There is no change to timing for inland works. Coastal works have a 2-year deadline extension.
All works nominated by total entitlements of >15 and <100 ML, unless otherwise exempt	Pattern approved meter Mandatory take reporting <i>DQP validation and LID/telemetry optional</i>	Later of 1 December 2027 or renewal of work approval	These works still require a meter, but no longer required to have meters installed and validated by a DQP or be fitted with a local intelligence device. This provides an extension to both inland works (which were overdue) and coastal works (which otherwise would have been required to be metered by 1 December 2024).
Pumps and bores below the size-based thresholds Works nominated by total entitlement ≤ 15 ML (except surface water pumps ≥ 500 mm)	No meter mandated (exempt), but meter required if trading water Mandatory take reporting <i>Application to at-risk water sources to be considered further</i>	Not applicable	There is no change for pumps and bores below the size-based thresholds. Works nominated by a low volume share component will no longer be required to be fitted with a DQP installed AS 4747 compliant meter.
Works not taking licensed water (unintended, inactive) Works not nominated by licensed water entitlements	No meter mandated (exempt)	Not applicable	It will be easier for unintended and inactive works to access this metering exemption. There is no change for works not nominated by licensed water entitlements.

* NRAR may direct installation of a meter in specified timeframe if take or reporting related non-compliance is detected





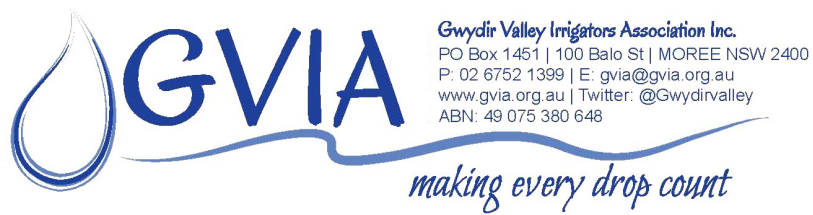
5. General Business

- a) NSWIC directors' nominations
- b) Updated GVIA Risk Register
- c) Review of the GVIA strategic plan

The GVIA Strategic Plan is due for review and possible rewrite.



Appendix 1:



Annual General Meeting

Monday 25th March 2024

GVIA Boardroom, 100 Balo Street, Moree

Agenda

Annual General Meeting: 3:00 – 3:45pm

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting held 9th February 2023
4. Chairman's Report – Jim Cush
5. Treasurer's Report – Boyce Chartered Accountants and Sarah Ball
6. Committee Election
7. Close

General Meeting: 3:45 – 5:00pm

1. Water Amendment Bill 2023
 - a) Policy position discussions
2. Connectivity and rule changes
3. General Business items.
4. Close

5:00pm: Farewell for Previous EO Zara Lowien

Drinks and nibbles will be provided at the completion of the meeting.

Annual General Meeting Monday 25th March 2024

1. Welcome

2. Apologies:

Hugh Ball, Ross Burling, Guy Boland, Rob Harris, Doug Hill,

Present: Zara Lowien, Sam Heagney, Sarah Ball, Stacey Hart, David Reibel, Mark Winter, Michael Seery, Mick Humphries, Joe Robinson, Henry Moses, Craig Estens, Nick Gillingham, Peter Birch, Alex Harris, Jim Cush, Bernie George, Lou Gall.

3. Confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting held 9th February 2023

Minutes as presented in Appendix 1 in papers.

Recommendation that the Minutes emailed 8 February 2023 and presented at the end of the booklet, are approved by those currently present as a true and accurate account of the Annual General Meeting on from 9th February 2023.

Moved: Sam Heagney

Second: Nick Gillingham

4. Chairman's Report – Jim Cush

As we get close to the end of another summer cropping season it's interesting to compare the reality to the predictions.

Last winter, the Bureau of Meteorology forecast a long, hot, dry El Niño summer. Many farmers factored that into their cropping and livestock planning, as did many agricultural suppliers who reduced stock and even cancelled fertiliser orders, resulting in very limited supplies of urea and other chemicals.

The NSW Government water agencies also took these predictions to heart, with the Department implying for months that the Darling River has been on a knife edge of mass fish kills in its weekly crisis report reassuring communities emergency services are at the ready. In the event, while the odd fish has gone belly up, it certainly hasn't been for lack of water flowing through the river systems.

Notable also how many stakeholders seemed to welcome the prospect of another hot dry summer causing an ecological disaster almost with glee – another opportunity to sheet the blame home to the farmers who grow their food and fibre. Our federal Water Minister shamelessly exploited the sentiment to bulldoze through her legislation to increase buybacks and abandon the communities left behind.

The northern Basin basically was following the BoM prediction till the middle of November, when dry heat turned to humid heat with storms that have continued throughout the summer. The storms have been hit and miss – some have got the rain while other missed out – but overall, it's been a godsend for our members.

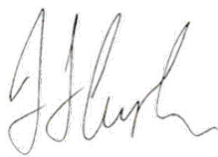
We have more than enough on our plate running our businesses without our governments seemingly determined to run interference on multiple fronts.

With state and federal departments so reactionary to the possibility of dire outcomes, I have little faith in a fair outcome for the connectivity rules being developed for the Barwon-Darling that could affect every valley north of the Lachlan. There's a lot of pressure to change the rules to free up more water to count towards the 450 GL, and that doesn't bode well for farmers accessing their licensed entitlements.

And while the NSW Government released its Alternatives to Buybacks Plan a couple of weeks ago, it was underwhelming to say the least. No new projects, just a handful that have been on the table for years while past state and federal governments sat on their hands. At best, they will yield only about 20GL towards the 450GL. If there's any silver lining, it is also evident from the Bridging the Gap program that buybacks are not proving the easy or cheap option our federal minister was hoping for.

We have been let down again and again by successive governments of all political colours. But that's why it's essential to keep investing in a strong GVIA team advocating for fair outcomes, whether it's the Basin Plan, metering reforms, or pricing.

I'd to acknowledge Zara's invaluable contribution to the organisation during her thirteen years at GVIA. We will be recruiting to fill that position again soon, but in the meantime, Lou Gall will be GVIA's interim executive officer.



Jim Cush
GVIA Chair
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Additional comments on the price determination from IPART review into WaterNSW pricing. The review identified price increases over 100% due to fish passage (\$250mil) and cold water pollution (\$78mil). This was not accepted by WaterNSW CEO. More details are available in the CAG update from March.

General feeling that the 5GL over recovered water in the Gwydir is gone.

5. Treasurer's Report – Boyce Chartered Accountants and Sarah Ball

Ongoing strong membership return rate as at the end of the financial year was near 90%. This included \$269,639 from traditional entitlements and an additional \$46,569 from Floodplain Harvesting.

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc 100 Balo St (PO Box 1451) MOREE NSW 2400									
Analyse Sales [Membership]									
Item No.	Name	2021-2022 Sales	Total Invoiced Sales	December	April	May	June	TOTAL	% Paid
RWE	Regulated Water Entitlement	\$159,453.60	\$174,885.75	\$ 123,427.35	\$ 10,521.00	\$ (137.00)		\$ 166,035.35	95%
SUP	Supplementary Water	\$61,450.00	\$69,249.60	\$ 48,015.00	\$ 4,855.00	\$ 52.00		\$ 66,150.00	96%
UWE	Unregulated Water Entitlement	\$22,284.40	\$24,353.10	\$ 13,830.75	\$ 1,562.00			\$ 16,275.75	67%
GWE	Ground Water Entitlement	\$16,812.00	\$18,445.95	\$ 9,523.35	\$ 1.00			\$ 14,554.35	79%
HS	High Security	\$5,801.60	\$6,526.80	\$ 839.30	\$ -			\$ 6,497.30	100%
INBA	Inverell Basalt	\$709.60	\$2,122.20	\$ 1,444.50	\$ -			\$ 1,446.50	68%
FPH	Regulated Flood Plain Harvesting	\$0.00	\$52,538.85	\$ 33,431.40	\$ 3,148.00	\$ 43.00		\$ 46,568.40	89%
MADJ	Membership Adjustment	\$2,321.95	\$1,979.80	\$ 448.88	\$ -		\$ (1,955.80)	\$ (1,322.48)	-67%
		\$268,833.15	\$350,102.05	\$ 230,960.53	\$ 20,087.00	\$ (42.00)	\$ (1,955.80)	\$ 316,205.17	
				66%	6%	0%	-1%	90%	

Fewer projects during 22-23 and reduced funds from current CottonInfo project impacted the contribution to overhead costs for the office. This put increased responsibility from member funds to the position of project officer throughout the year.

EO took long service leave in addition staff used more annual leave to reduce the liability.

The GVIA need to consider increasing the levy to ensure the organisation has sufficient reserves to fund ongoing advocacy for members. In addition, the organisation needs to have the necessary resources to fund the Project Officer.

The organisation may also need to look at targeted sponsorship into the future due to the increasing costs associated with maintaining the office and the increasing challenges associated to maintain member entitlements.

Financial Statements are available on the website in the members log in, the balance sheet for 2022-23 financial year is displayed below as with the profit and loss for the Members. Total enterprise profit and loss and the individual projects are all provided in the complete statements.

Statement of profit or loss

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
Income			
Project Income			
Project income		50,070	167,664
Project funds held - Opening balance		91,117	203,956
Project funds held - Closing balance		(84,349)	(91,117)
Prior year member payment		180	-
Total Project Income		57,017	280,503
Other income			
Membership		269,639	253,349
Interest received		1,805	797
Floodplain Harvesting		46,569	-
CGA Services		6,000	6,000
Commissions/Contractor		-	5,850
Total other income		324,012	265,996
Total income		381,030	546,499
Expenses			
Accountancy and audit		12,916	7,764
Bank charges		255	193
Bookkeeping		-	4,196
Cleaning		-	118
Consultancy		-	1,960
Depreciation		15,218	25,622
Electricity and water		4,156	1,788
Field days and events		778	-
Fringe benefits tax		6,598	6,540
In-field project expenses		18	14,438
Insurance - General		9,082	74
Insurance - Workers compensation		327	(26)
Landholder reimbursements		4,441	4,768
Legal fees		-	7,612
Licences, permits and fees		333	-
Meetings and conferences		2,720	8,796
Motor vehicle expenses		11,197	7,799
Newspapers and periodicals		66	63
Office overheads		6,071	20,191
Office supplies		1,185	23,423
Printing, stationery and postage		628	902
Producer tours		59	59,579
Promotional activities		(5,279)	21,905
Provision for annual leave expense		(6,149)	6,442

Provision for long service leave expense	11,579	4,542
Rates	7,322	3,457
Rent	36,694	21,235
Repairs and maintenance	656	905
Secretarial	8,759	-
Staff training	-	683
Subscriptions and memberships	32,336	29,679
Superannuation	21,622	32,922
Telephone	4,182	4,733
Travel and accommodation	19,038	12,234
Wages - Employees	199,486	207,166
Annual Return Fee	417	-
Irrigation Council levy	(386)	386
Total expenses	406,325	542,087
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	(25,295)	4,412
	NOTES	2023
		2022
Retained profits		
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	312,638	308,226
Operating profit for the year	(25,295)	4,412
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	287,343	312,638

Balance sheet

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.
As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
Assets			
Current assets			
Trading account - ANZ		18,401	36,110
Trading account - ANZ External project		70,585	77,798
Trading account - ANZ Mimosa project		18,394	18,392
Trading account - ANZ CRDC 6636		-	-
Saving account - ANZ		144,018	147,360
Trade debtors		2,396	87,929
Term deposit - ANZ #6		35,515	34,970
Term deposit - ANZ #8		58,109	58,519
GST refund due		473	-
NAB GVIA Business #0726		96,846	-
Total current assets		444,737	461,077
Non-Current assets			
Irrigation improvements (at written down values)		6,947	7,783
Improvements (at written down values)		1,723	2,095
Motor vehicles (at written down values)		35,990	47,986
Office equipment (at written down values)		9,530	9,826
Total non-current assets		54,190	67,691
Total assets		498,927	528,768
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Accrued charges		-	6,104
Irrigation council levy		3,137	-
GST payable		-	496
Credit card - ANZ visa		2,519	4,609
Trade creditors		12,756	13,146
PAYG withholding payable		7,302	3,652
Superannuation payable		6,211	7,127
Future project funds held		84,349	91,117
Provision for annual leave		45,467	51,616
Total current liabilities		161,742	177,867
Non-Current liabilities			
Provision for long service leave		49,842	38,262
Total non-current liabilities		49,842	38,262
Total liabilities		211,583	216,130
Net assets/(deficiency)		287,343	312,638
Member's funds			
	NOTES	2023	2022
Retained profits		287,343	312,638
Total member's funds and reserves		287,343	312,638

Recommendation that the GVIA Members note and adopt the Treasurer's and Auditor's report for the 2023 financial year as presented, as a true and accurate account of the financial position of the organisation and we recommend that Jim Cush and Sarah Ball be authorised to sign the Financial Statements on the organisation's behalf.

Moved: Sarah Ball
Second: Nick Gillingham

6. Committee Election

Nominations have been received from:

Mark Winter	Peter Birch
Jim Cush	Sarah Ball
Bernie George	Joe Robinson
Nick Gillingham	Michael Seery
Michael Humphries	Alex Harris
David Reibel	Sam Heagney

We received 12 nominations, and the organisation is required to have a minimum of 11 committee members.

Motion to accept 12 committee members accepted.

Selection of Office bearers

Position	Nominee	Nominated	Second	Accepted
Chair	Jim Cush	Mick Humphries	Sam Heagney	Yes
Vice Chairs	Michael Seery	Nick Gillingham	Joe Robinson	Yes
	Nick Gillingham	Sarah Ball	Sam Heagney	Yes
Treasurer	Sarah Ball	Sam Heagney	Nick Gillingham	Yes

Positions all accepted.

4. Close

General Meeting: 3:45 – 5:00pm

1. General Discussion:

Imbalance in the approach by NRAR.

Risk assignment as detailed in the Intergovernmental agreement of 1994 indicates that users bear the first 3% reduction in water allocation, the states and federal governments share over 3%.

2. Projects:

Discussion on the need for projects. Options into the future may include projects oriented around for example emissions.

General feeling was that focus should remain on the core business of the GVIA, Water.

Noted that projects should justify the expense of the person. Include consideration of the legal responsibility of the organisation and members. The role projects play in providing resources to run the business. Broader issue of covering the extension of research.

Having two people employed helps to balance the strategic position of the business.

3. Levy:

Current levy at \$0.45/ML. Agreed that if there was a need for funds, then the could be a specific call for investment.

4. Connectivity:

Significant concerns about the implications from the government focus on connectivity. May lead to a response from users.

5. Rule Changes:

Care needs to be taken with discussions associated with rule changes, noting the potential for misinterpretation of statements.

6. Section 324 Embargo

Need to develop mechanism to guarantee that it is not applied. Existing WSP rules currently provide significant restrictions on users.

7. Floodplain Harvesting

Numerous issues still exist.

- a. There is currently no pathway to compliance for Point of take measurement – the only means to enable irrigation while an event is in place.
- b. Still not pathway to nominating an individual storage (noting the system already exists for other forms of take).

Action: Create a proforma letter detailing the issues of nominating a specific storage, Floodplain harvesting while irrigating and lack of pathway for compliance with point of take. Members can utilise the letter to send directly to ombudsman to create pressure for department staff to make the policy workable.

8. Close