



Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc.

PO Box 342, Finley NSW 2713, Australia.

DECEMBER 2010 UPDATE

From the Chairman:

I trust that you are all enjoying not having to pay large electricity or fuel bills to extract your groundwater at present. What a turnaround from December 2009, not without heartache though with the pendulum swinging the other way and crops being affected by too much rain.

I hope that you have not suffered too much damage from flooding and all the intricacies that come with an over abundance of rain at the wrong time of the year. 2010 will be a year to be remembered with our rivers flooding and a full surface water allocation announced in December.

Whilst our groundwater resource (at this point) is not subject to any significant cuts under the guide to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan, we must remain in tune with the MDBA, politicians and their staff to ensure your groundwater resource is protected. As a result Jennie and I have been required to visit Canberra several times over the past two months to engage with the powers to be. Please see the submissions MGI has sent to the MDBA, Senate and House of Reps inquires on our updated website mgi.org.au. The submissions are largely a replica of each other conveying the same message to the various bodies.

We were very disappointed to hear of Mike Taylor, Chairman, of the MDBA's resignation as we had built a reasonable relationship with him and he appeared to understand regional issues and the value of the agricultural sector. Unfortunately we cannot hold the same view for the rest of the Authority who appear to show little concern for the social and economic decimation of our region if the plan were to be implemented in its proposed form. After our consultations with Minister Burke, we hang our hat on his commitment to us that his objective is to strike a triple bottom line and balanced outcome.

I thank those of you that have paid your levy collection and trust that those of you who will receive a reminder early in the New Year will appreciate the value of protecting your valuable water resource and see your way fit to contribute as well.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Kind regards, *Richard Stott*





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From the CEO:

At the end of a season totally opposite to the many years of drought, I trust that you and your family will enjoy Christmas and cruise into a healthy, happy and prosperous 2011.

Recapping on the main highlights of the past 12 months:

- MGI were pleased to see the second Available Water Determination announcement return to 100%.
- The fact that the Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater resource has a Water Sharing Plan in place and that we have gone through the Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements (ASGE), the Guide to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan has not recommended any significant cuts for our region.
- MGI is recognised by politicians and government agencies as a professional organisation and is invited to participate in forums and workshops.
- Richard Stott and Louise Burge represented MGI at the International Groundwater Conference in Canberra early November. Richard and Louise engaged with many scientists and hydrologists and were within a very small minority of actual groundwater users at the conference. It is imperative that MGI participate in these events to ensure that the groundwater users voice is heard.

I take this opportunity to thank Richard and the executive for their support and mentoring through what has been a very challenging year with the role out of the guide to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Kind regards, *Jennie Hehir*

Updated Website: mgi.org.au

Please utilise our updated website where you can access our submissions and information surrounding groundwater. If there is extra information that would be useful to you, please let Jennie know and she will endeavour to provide the information on the website.

Please forward your email address if you would like access to regular information:

Those of you that have not already provided Jennie with your email address and would like up to date information on a regular basis, please forward your email to jenniehehir@bigpond.com

