

14 December 2023 Board Meeting

Board members present: Chairperson Cr Tim Koschel, Deputy Chairperson Cr Doug Meyer OAM, Cr Georgie Davies, Cr Tony Quinn, Cr Michael Henderson, Cr Jenny McKinnon, Cr Tony Quinn, Cr Pat Bourke, Cr Dallas Tout

Apologies: Cr Gail Driscoll

[Business paper](#) | [Minutes](#) | [Recordings](#)

R5 | 2023-24 Enriching Communities Grants

Riverina Water formally approved the successful recipients of its \$100,000 Enriching Communities program for 2023/24.

The program will see 13 community groups from Wagga Wagga City, Lockhart Shire, Greater Hume and Federation Council areas receive funding for activities that meet the key objectives of community, health and wellbeing, water conservation and education, arts and culture, sustainability and the environment.

Allocations have been made to each Council in Riverina Water's supply area: \$40,000 for Wagga Wagga City Council, and \$20,000 each for Lockhart Shire, Greater Hume and Federation Councils.

A full list of all 2023-24 grant recipients can be found at <https://rwcc.nsw.gov.au/grants>

R7 | Inquiry into protecting local water utilities from privatisation

Riverina Water CEO Andrew Crakanthorp has made a submission to the inquiry into protecting local water utilities (LWUs) from privatisation.

The inquiry follows NSW Parliament passing the Constitution Amendment (Sydney Water and Hunter Water) Bill 2023 on 1 June 2023, to ensure continued public ownership of Sydney Water Corporation and the Hunter Water Corporation.

The Riverina Water submission argued that all reasons that the protections proposed for Sydney Water and Hunter Water could and should equally be applied to the 89 local water utilities across the remainder of the state.

The inquiry is currently ongoing, and the Board has been informed there will be an inquiry sitting in Wagga Wagga in March 2024. The Board discussed the importance of ongoing support from our constituent Councils in this matter and will provide further details of the Wagga sitting as they come to hand.

R9 | Update on PFAS

An update was provided to the Board regarding PFAS.

The Department of Defence will be constructing a new sentinel bore to monitor the movement of the PFAS plume towards Riverina Water's East Wagga borefield.

Defence previously detected PFAS 650m from Riverina Water's borefield, which indicated the plume may be moving at a faster rate than it first modelled.

However, Defence's initial sentinel bore was at a depth of around 25m, while Riverina Water's East Wagga borefield is drawing water at a depth of around 63m. The new sentinel bore is expected to provide a more accurate picture of the situation, with construction expecting to start in January 2024.

PFAS has not been detected in Riverina Water's East Wagga bores.

Investigations are continuing into the source of a very low level of PFAS at a single bore at Riverina Water's West Wagga borefield.

The Department of Defence is undertaking the investigation on the behalf of Riverina Water, while the Department of Primary Industries – Water will be conducting sampling across Wagga Wagga.

The results were just above the minimum level of PFAS that could be detected, with results ranging from 0.015 - 0.02 micrograms per litre (ug/L). This is significantly below the prescribed PFAS health limits of 0.07 ug/L for safe drinking water under the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

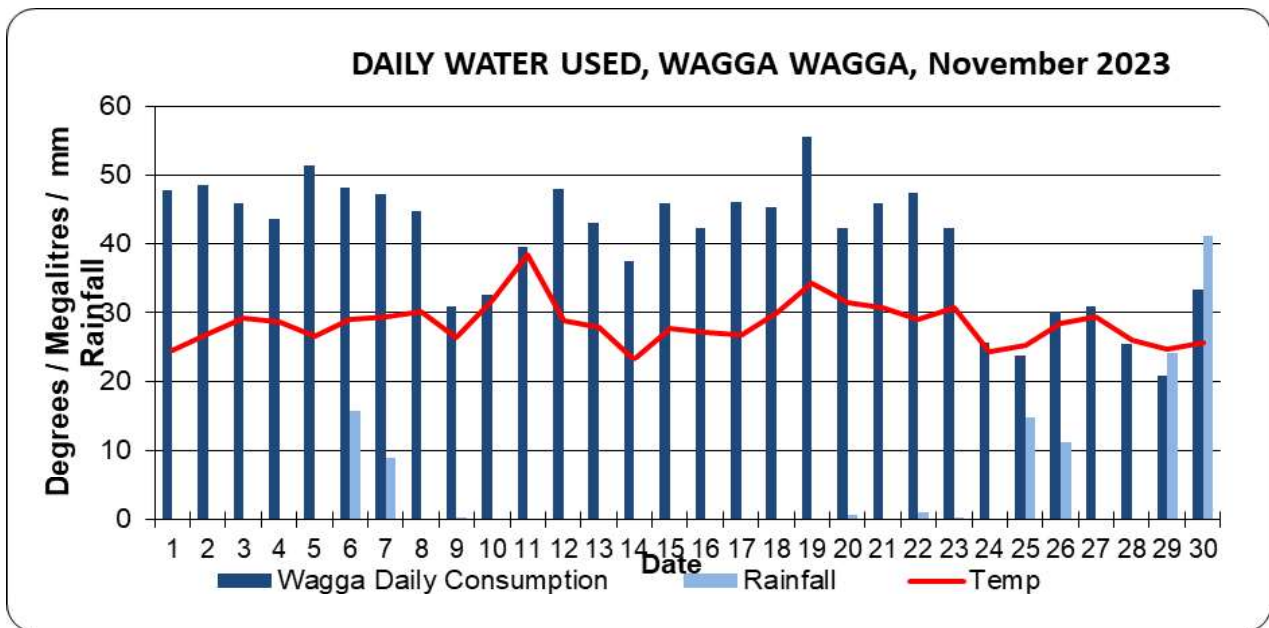
This means the bore can be utilised when needed as demand increases in summer in line with the national drinking water health standards.

More information can be found at <https://rwcc.nsw.gov.au/pfas>

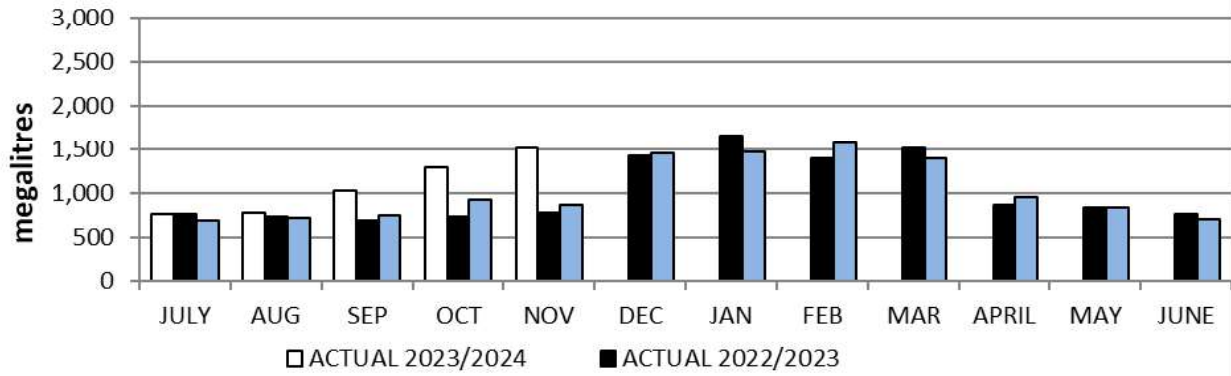
R12 | Works Report covering November 2023

| Month | New Connections (residential) | New Connections (non-residential) | Quality complaints | Supply complaints | Water sourced (ML) | Water used (ML) |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| November | 24 | 8 | 23 | 9 | 1,536.61 | 1,518.78 |

November 2023



MONTHLY TOTAL WATER USED COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS



MONTHLY RURAL WATER USED COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

