



Newsletter February 2023

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Speak Up committee, I would like to thank our members and sponsors for their financial contributions in 2022.

Behind the scenes, we have continued to do what we do well, get grass roots concerns into the media.

We have supported individuals to raise their concerns and issues in the water management / policy space, whether that be through print, radio or social media.

Again last year we provided our services and support to help other organisations articulate their key points in the water space, highlighting solutions and problems.

We have continued to support the Murray Regional Strategy Group in their objective to bring a united voice to politicians and departments on Basin Plan solutions.
www.murrayregionalstrategygroup.com.au

With the Ministerial Council meeting (MinCo) only weeks away and the recovery of the 450GL of upwater hot on the agenda we will be ramping up our messaging to remind Ministers at all levels of the commitment they made in 2018, when the Neutrality Test was agreed to. Speak Up was instrumental in ensuring Governments committed to this test. We organised the Melbourne Rally and participated / facilitated workshops to provide feedback to Governments prior to MinCo in 2018.

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West Berriquin Irrigators Inc.

This letter was sent to Ministers last week [Letter to Water Ministers](#), seeking commitment to the Neutrality Test.

We will be supporting NSW Irrigators with their #BeyondBuybacks campaign leading up to MinCo. They have produced some excellent material highlighting the impacts of recovering more water and the fact that volumes do not address water quality issues.

With an upcoming NSW election there is still a need to keep water policy and the Basin Plan front and centre, as such we believe there is a need for Speak Up to keep our issues alive in the media, along with letters to candidates.

We are looking at holding the Speak Up AGM in March. Anyone interested in participating in the AGM, or taking on a role for the organisation should contact myself or Sue Braybon via email speakup4water@gmail.com or phone Shelley on 0414960785.

Sue will be issuing invoices over the next few weeks, a copy of our membership fee structure can be found [Here](#). Please contact Sue Braybon on 0409314174 with any questions.

Once again, thank you for your financial support, it may not seem like there are big achievements, but without a grassroots voice who can call a spade a spade then our local messages are not being delivered and politicians will not be kept accountable.

And to Lloyd Polkinghorne, Sue Braybon and the committee for their support and help throughout the year – thank you!

Shelley Scoullar

Speak Up – A voice for rural communities

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