

Updated March 2013

WHO'S WHO OF IRRIGATION

Irrigation in NSW is a large and widespread industry with a significant number of entities involved. The players themselves do not escape the industry-wide love of acronyms. We trust that this list will be of use in understanding who the industry players are.

AWA – [Australian Water Association](#)

The peak body representing water professionals in Australia. Independent and not-for-profit, AWA promotes sustainable water management practices through collaboration, advocacy and professional development.

BARWON-DARLING WATER

The peak body of water users (local irrigation groups, local councils and riparian users) along the length of the unregulated Barwon-Darling River.

Previously known as: Mungindi-Menindee Advisory Council (MMAC)

BCC – [Basin Community Committee](#)

Established under the *Water Act 2007 (Cwlth)* to provide advice to the MDBA about the performance of the Authority's functions including community engagement relating to Basin water resource issues and the preparation of the Basin Plan.

BCC Members were selected on the basis of their expertise or interest in community, water use, environmental water management, Indigenous or local government matters. [Members of the Basin Community Committee](#)

BEGA – [Bega Cheese Limited](#)

The Bega Cheese factory began production in 1900 and has been a dominant brand in the Australian market for over 30 years. Today they process and distribute the highest quality dairy products, to both Australian and international markets.

BRFF – [Border Rivers Food and Fibre](#)

Representing water users from ten different associations in the Macintyre, Dumaresq and Macintyre Brook catchments in both NSW and QLD.

CEWH – [Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder](#)

Individual responsible for heading up the Commonwealth Environment Water Office.

CEWO – Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

Statutory Office responsible for managing the water entitlements that the Commonwealth Government acquires. This water is to be used to protect or restore environmental assets such as wetlands and streams, including those in the Murray-Darling Basin.

CICL – Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited

Australia's fourth largest irrigation company, wholly owned by its farmer members. CICL delivers irrigation water across an area of approximately 400,000ha of which only 79,000ha is intensively irrigated. The delivery system is gravity fed across 518kms of supply channels and 734kms of drainage. Utilising Australian technology to manage the precise regulation of flows throughout the system with automated water ordering and accounting.

CID – Coleambally Irrigation District

An irrigated agricultural site located in the Riverina, south of Griffith and between Darlington Point and Jerilderie. The district encompasses 491 irrigation farms (each approx. 200ha in size). The major crops produced are rice, wheat, corn, cotton, barley, soy beans and canola.

CIT – Central Irrigation Trust

Located in Barmera, CIT manages nine irrigation districts pumping from the River Murray through a fully automatic pipeline scheme supplying 1,400 growers, irrigating 13,000 hectares of horticultural crops in the Riverland Region of South Australia.

COAG – Council of Australian Governments

The peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. Made up of the Prime Minister, State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association. Chaired by the Prime Minister, COAG provides an overarching framework for issues that require a national approach by all Governments.

COTTON AUSTRALIA

Is the peak body for Australia's cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in NSW and Queensland.

CRCFE – Co-operative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology

No longer operating – ceased operations in September 2005

Was a national research centre specialising in river and wetland ecology. Developed ecological understanding to improve and protect Australia's inland waterways by collaborative research, education, resource management, policy advice and community liaison.

CRDC – Cotton Research and Development Corporation

A partnership between the Australian cotton industry and the people through the Australian Government.

DAFF – [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)

Role is to develop and implement policies and programs that ensure Australia's agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable.

DPI – [NSW Department of Primary Industries](#)

A division within NSW Trade & Investment that works to develop and sustain diverse, profitable food and fibre industries, and ensures best practice management of our natural resources.

EPA – [Environment Protection Authority](#)

An independent authority responsible for leading business and the community to improve their environmental performance and for managing waste to deliver a healthy environment. Regulates and responds to activities that can impact on the health of the NSW environment and its people.

G-MW – [Goulburn-Murray Water](#)

Manages water storage, delivery and drainage systems involving 70% of Victoria's stored water. Harvest, store and deliver water to ensure availability for all customers.

GVIA – [Gwydir Valley Irrigation Association](#)

Represents the interests of irrigation entitlement holders in the Gwydir Valley, of North-West NSW.

HAL – [Horticulture Australia Limited](#)

A not-for-profit, industry-owned company that works in partnership with Australia's horticulture industries to invest in research, development and marketing programs that provide benefit in industry and the wider community.

HSIM – [High Security Irrigators Murrumbidgee](#)

Working for and on behalf of their members and the community, to advance, defend and strengthen the rights of all High Security Water Entitlement Holders within the Murrumbidgee Valley.

HVWUA – [Hunter Valley Water Users Association](#)

Represents the water users of the regulated sections of the Hunter Valley as well as co-operating with water user's associations on un-regulated streams and ground water systems throughout the Hunter Valley.

ICID - [International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage](#)

Established in 1950, the leading scientific, technical and not-for-profit Non-governmental organisation. Promotes research and development and capacity building for achieving sustainable irrigated agriculture.

IPART - Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Independent regulator that oversees determines the maximum prices that can be charged for certain retail energy, water and transport services in NSW.

IAL – Irrigation Australia Limited

A national body covering the entire value chain of the urban and rural irrigation industry in Australia.

IRRIGATORS' INC

No longer operating – a predecessor to the National Irrigators Council

A national body representing Irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin. Comprised of State irrigation industry groups from South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

JIL – Jemalong Irrigation Limited

Supplies water from the Lachlan River to 119 shareholders in the district of more than 96 000 hectares of farming land.

LVW – Lachlan Valley Water

The peak body representing river and groundwater users in the Lachlan Valley, NSW.

LWA – Land & Water Australia

No longer in operation – funding removed in 2009/10 Commonwealth Budget.

The sustainable management and use of Australia's natural resources through investment in research and adoption.

LWAP – Land and Water Advisory Panel

Established to facilitate coordinated stakeholder and community advice on current natural resource management and water issues in NSW.

MRFF – Macquarie River Food and Fibre

The peak industry group for irrigated agriculture in the Macquarie Valley, Central West NSW. A non-profit, non-political organisation supporting members to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry that meets the environmental, economic and social needs of local communities.

MDBA – Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Principle aim is to manage the Murray–Darling Basin's water resources in the national interest.

MDBC – Murray-Darling Basin Commission

No longer operating – replaced by the MDBA.

From 1988 to 2008 the MDBC was the executive arm of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and was responsible for managing the River Murray & Menindee Lakes System as well as advising on matters related to the use of water, land & environmental resources of the MDB.

MDB CAC - Murray Darling Basin Community Advisory Committee

No longer operating – replaced by the BCC

Provided the Ministerial Council with advice and provides a two-way communication channel between the Council and Basin communities.

MDBMC – Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council

No longer operating – replaced by the Legislative and Governance Forum on the MDB

The policy and decision making body for water resources in the Basin. Made up of Ministers for the Resource Management and the Environment from each of the MDB States (QLD, NSW, VIC, ACT, SA). Functions significantly altered by Commonwealth Water Act 2007.

MIL – Murray Irrigation Limited

Australia's largest private irrigation company based in southern NSW. Its shareholders are the irrigator customers who own the landholdings to which the company supplies water.

MVWDAA – Murray Valley Water Diverters Advisory Association

Representing the interests of private Murray Valley catchment river pumpers in NSW.

MGI – Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc.

Represents the interests of groundwater pumpers in the Murrumbidgee Valley. A large agricultural area of approximately 84,000 square km in South Western NSW.

MI – Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited

One of the largest private irrigation companies in Australia serving over 3,200 landholdings owned by over 2,500 customers within an area of 660,000 hectares.

MIA – Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

A diverse and productive region in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin. First established in 1912 after the commissioning of Burrinjuck Dam and expanded in the 1970's with the construction of Blowering Dam. The region has played a significant role in fostering cultural diversity with over 50 different nationalities now resident in the region.

MPI – Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators Inc.

Represents the interests of people who extract water from the Murrumbidgee River its tributaries, billabongs and effluent streams for the purpose of irrigation. Member locations range from Canberra to Balranald and from Morundah to Moulamein.

MVFFA – Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association

Representative organisation who's key interest is in the protection of economic, environmental and social viability for the entire region.

[NAMOI WATER](#)

The peak industry group for irrigated agriculture in the Peel, Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Valleys in the North West of NSW. A non-profit, non-political organisation supporting members to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry that meets the environmental, economic and social needs of local communities.

NFF – [National Farmers Federation](#)

The peak national body representing farmers and agriculture across Australia. One of Australia's foremost and respected lobbying and advocacy organisations.

NIC – [National Irrigators Council](#)

The peak national body for irrigators in Australia, providing a policy and political voice for those who use water for commercial agricultural or horticultural purposes across the country.

NOW – [NSW Office of Water](#)

Responsible for the management of the State's surface water and groundwater resources.

Previously known as: **WRC** (Water Resource Commission), **DLWC** (Department of Land and Water Conservation), **DNR** (Department of Natural Resources), **DIPNR** (Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources) and **DWE** (Department of Water and Energy).

NPSI – [National Program for Sustainable Irrigation](#)

No longer in operation – program finished in June 2012.

Invested into research and adoption of sustainable irrigation practices to improve the environmental and productive performance of irrigation in Australia.

NRAC - [Natural Resources Advisory Council](#)

No longer in operation – finished in October 2012.

Established in December 1999 it was the primary source of advice to Government on sustainable natural resource management in NSW.

NRC - [Natural Resources Commission](#)

Provides independent advice to the NSW Government on setting environmental targets and standards based on the best scientific, economic and social information available.

NSWFA – [NSW Farmers' Association](#)

The representative voice of farmers in NSW.

NSWIC - [NSW Irrigators' Council](#)

The peak body that represents more than 12,000 water access licence holders across NSW. Supports the development and growth of sustainable irrigated agriculture.

NWC – [National Water Commission](#)

Responsible for driving national water reform under the National Water Initiative. Provide independent and public advice to COAG and the Australian Government by assessing, auditing and monitoring water reform progress.

OEH – [Office of Environment and Heritage](#)

Works to protect and conserve the NSW environment, including the natural environment, Aboriginal country, culture and heritage and our built heritage, and manages NSW national parks and reserves.

Previously known as: Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) / Department of Environment and Conservation.

RGA – [Ricegrowers Association of Australia](#)

The collective voice of rice growers' in Australia. The RGA represents over 1500 voluntary members and supports growers on issues affecting the viability of their business and communities.

RWCWUA – [Richmond Wilson Combined Water Users' Association](#)

An organisation formed by water users from the catchments of the Richmond and Wilsons Rivers in North-Eastern NSW. It aims to represent at State level the interests of all rural and industrial users of both surface and ground water in the membership area.

[RIVERINA CITRUS](#)

No longer in operation – ceased in March 2012

Comprised 650 producers from Carrathool, Griffith, Leeton, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera, all working to supply both domestic and export customers with fresh quality citrus.

SAFF – [South Australian Farmers Federation](#)

South Australia's peak lobbying organisation representing farmers. Aims to ensure that the farming communities continue to play a key role in the development and sustainability of the state as well as their own livelihoods.

SAMI – [South Australian Murray Irrigators](#)

Represent SA River Murray Irrigators at the Murray-Darling Basin level.

SRI – [Southern Riverina Irrigators](#)

An irrigator body in the mid Murray Valley of NSW, operating since the 1960's. The main focus is to develop water policy for irrigators in the original Government Irrigation Districts and now for the Murray Irrigation Limited area. The region's water is sourced from the Murray River via the Mulwala Canal and Colligen Creek.

SEWPaC – [Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities](#)

Department responsible for implementing the Australian Government's policies to protect our environment and heritage, and to promote a sustainable way of life.

Previously known as: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

SHL – [Snowy Hydro Limited](#)

Business providing a complex array of financial hedge and insurance products to participants in the electricity markets. Provider of electricity to the National Electricity Market.

[SYDNEY WATER](#)

Australia's largest water utility. A statutory State Owned Corporation, wholly owned by the NSW Government. Supply water, wastewater, recycled water and some stormwater services to over 4.6 million people in Sydney, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains. Drinking water is sourced from a network of dams managed by the Sydney Catchment Authority (most from Warragamba Dam), then treated and delivered to customers' homes and businesses by Sydney Water.

SWC – [State Water](#)

New South Wales' rural bulk water delivery business. Owns, maintains, manages and operates major infrastructure to deliver bulk water to approximately 6,300 licensed water users on the state's regulated rivers.

VFF – [Victorian Farmers Federation](#)

State farmer organisation representing over 10,000 members who live and work on more than 15,000 farm businesses situated across Victoria.

WCPID – [West Corugan Private Irrigation District](#)

Serves approximately 300 properties covering an area of some 212,000 Hectares between the Murray river and Billabong Creek. The area is bounded by the towns of Corowa, Daysdale, Oaklands, Jerilderie, Berrigan, Savenake and Rennie.

WMI – [Western Murray Irrigation Ltd.](#)

Privatized in 1995, a non-profit company covering three irrigation districts, Buronga, Coomealla and Curlwaa.

WGMB – [Wine Grapes Marketing Board](#)

Created in 1933 to represent the interests to winegrape growers within Griffith, Leeton, Carrathool and Murrumbidgee.