

# Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 22

Newsletter Date April 2014

*In this Newsletter  
we cover the  
following areas:*

- Cancellation of April 2014 Quarterly Meter Reading
- Major Maintenance Projects
- Palmyra Scheme - Bakers Creek Channel Repairs
- New Employee
- Local Management Proposal for Eton Scheme

### **Contacts:**

Secretary:

John Palmer  
Pioneer Valley Water  
Level 1  
Canegrowers Building  
120 Wood Street  
MACKAY QLD 4740

Phone: 4957 8481

Fax: 4957 8038

www.pvwater.com.au  
pvwater@pvwater.com.au

Correspondence to:

PO Box 275  
MACKAY QLD 4740

### **Cancellation of April 2014 Quarterly Meter Reading Round**

Consistent rains since early January have resulted in very little water use since the water meters were last read in late December and January. The more recent rain has made conditions extremely difficult for us to attempt the scheduled readings for this month.

In view of this we will not be reading meters this quarter and will catch up with the final reading for 2013/14 in June.

### **Funding of Major Maintenance Projects**

The Board has recently adopted a policy on how it will treat with any major maintenance works that are not within its annual budget or the asset renewal program. An example of this type of work would be major damage caused by a cyclone or flood that was not covered by insurance.

For these projects, the Board has determined that 75% of the cost is to be met by customers in the reticulation area where the work is required and the remaining cost met by customers in the other reticulation areas. Depending on the size and nature of the works it could be done as an increase in water charges in all areas for one year or the work split up and spread over a number of years.

The Board has also included a provision that would allow urgent works to be funded initially from any reserve funds held at the time. This would then be paid off by customers over time under the 75/25 split above.

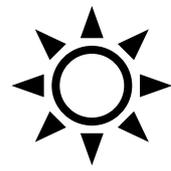
### **Palmyra Scheme – Bakers Creek Channel Repairs**

The first section of the Bakers Creek Channel at Palmyra has had some slumping of the channel bank for a number of years and we have undertaken some trial rock stabilisation to determine the most cost effective way to repair the bank slumping along the channel. The Board now proposes to commence work to rectify the severely slumped sections of channel bank. This is as we discussed in correspondence and a meeting with Palmyra members in 2010.

In accordance with the policy on major project funding above, the work will commence next year (2014/15) with an initial annual budget of \$20,000 which would be indexed at CPI. It is expected that the work could take up to 10 years to complete.

Funding for the work will be through increases to fixed water charges for 2014/15 of \$2.58/ML for Palmyra and \$0.13/ML for all other areas. If the work extends for 10 years, charges at that time would be increased by around \$3.37/ML (Palmyra) and \$0.17/ML (other areas). The Board will review the project annually and may accelerate or defer it depending on prevailing conditions.

Continued.....



### New Employee

Our manager, John has informed the Board that he intends to commence long service leave from 01 July 2015 and retire from his position in mid-2016. The Board recognises that it would take time to train a new employee to work with Greg, Judy and Richard to maintain the high level of service they provide when John leaves us.

We have employed Michael Boland as Operations Officer with a view to providing him with training and experience in the scheme over the next 18 months. Michael has worked extensively in the coal and gas sectors in water management and environmental assessments. He has a small non irrigated farm at Oakenden where he lives with his young family.



### *Local Management Proposal for the Eton Irrigation Scheme*

The Interim Board established to examine local management for the Eton Scheme has released a summary of its draft Business Proposal and discussed it with the customers in that Scheme. This forms part of the Queensland Government's proposal to move the eight SunWater channel based irrigation schemes in the State to local management.

A very high level of support has been shown by Eton customers for the move to local management.

The final Business Proposal is to go to Government this June and, if approved, could see the transition to local management commence at Eton mid-2015. We will monitor developments with this particularly if opportunities arise to examine potential efficiencies for us from a merger of our scheme with Eton.

We will keep you fully informed on this and would stress that any proposal to merge with Eton would require approval by 75% of our members in a special postal ballot under the Rules of our Co-operative.

If you would like any further information on the move of SunWater schemes to local management including the Eton details these are available on the web site below.

<http://www.lmairrigation.com.au/home>.