



Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

NEWSLETTER

Issue 30

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*In this Newsletter
we cover the
following areas:*

- 2018- 2019 Announced Allocation
- 2018- 2019 Budget and Water Charges
- Director Election/ Appointment Outcomes
- Pricing challenges ahead
- New Operations Officer

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2019-2019 Announced Allocation

With Teemburra Dam at 98% of full capacity, Announced Allocations for the 2018-2019 Water Year for both High Priority A (urban and industrial) supply and High Priority B (irrigation) supply have been set at 100% from July 01, 2019. This is the tenth consecutive year with full allocation being available for irrigation.

With Announced Allocation at 100%, PVWater customers are reminded that Stream Flow Periods will not be announced for the 2018-2019 Water Year.

2018-2019 Budget and Water Charges

Pioneer Valley Water has adopted the Budget and set water charges for the 2018-2019 Water Year:

Contributors to upwards pressure on water charges this year include an increase in the Sun-Water Bulk Water Charge (average +\$0.43/MI), and anticipated servicing costs for large centrifugal pumps in the Palmyra (+\$1.93/MI), Septimus (+\$4.90/MI) and Silver McGregor (+\$2.26/MI) schemes. The *electricity* component of the *Usage Charge* is affected by delivery efficiency adjustments in the Palmyra (-\$0.08/MI), Septimus (+\$0.22), and Silver McGregor (+\$0.84/MI) schemes.

Offsetting increases is a return to irrigators of savings achieved in 2017-2018 through lower than anticipated outlays for *repairs and maintenance* and also for unexpended *staff salaries*. This is a continuation of Pioneer Valley Water's not-for-profit operating basis.

The outcome sees a reduction in the *Access Charge* compared with 2017-2018, (ranging from -\$0.65/MI in the Palmyra scheme to -\$2.80/MI in the Palm Tree Creek - Pipeline scheme), and an increase in the *Usage Charge* (ranging from +\$0.02/MI in the Palmyra scheme to +\$0.95/MI in the Silver-McGregor scheme).

2018-2019 Water Charges

Irrigation Area	2017/18 Charges		2018/19 Charges	
	Access \$/MI (p.a.)	Usage \$/MI (p.a.)	Access \$/MI (p.a.)	Usage \$/MI (p.a.)
Palm Tree Creek—Cattle Creek	43.13	4.10	41.88	4.18
Palm Tree Creek—Pipeline	65.43	6.95	62.62	7.35
Palmyra	52.66	33.45	52.01	33.46
Riparian	38.53	2.95	37.84	3.04
Septimus	60.98	54.25	60.22	54.55
Silver McGregor—Creeks	50.43	42.35	49.70	43.29
Silver McGregor—Pipeline	53.73	42.35	53.00	43.29

Director Election/Appointment Outcomes

PVWater : Two positions on the Board of PVWater became vacant on retirement (by rotation) of Member Director Lawrence Bugeja and Independent Director David Said. One valid nomination was received for the position of Member Director, and Lawrence Bugeja was duly declared elected to continue in the role. David Said advised the Board of his availability to continue in the role of Independent Director and was re-appointed to the Board.

PVMutual : A position on the Board of Pioneer Valley Water Mutual Co-operative became vacant on retirement by rotation of Member Director John Werner. One valid nomination was received, and John Werner was duly declared elected to continue in the role.

A big thank you to Lawrence, David and John for stepping back up to the plate!

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Pricing Challenges Ahead ...

PVWater continues to be heavily involved in advocating for irrigators through peak bodies, and also directly with state and federal governments at both statutory and political levels, with regard to unsustainable increases in electricity and bulk water costs.

Electricity : An increasing weight of evidence supporting a cap of 16c/kWh on electricity tariffs for agriculture, and industry specific assistance for transitioning to cost reflective pricing, has progressively been accumulated and supported through: independent research commissioned by peak bodies such as [CANEGOWERS](#) (and

others); tariff trial case study analysis by the [Queensland Farmer's Federation](#) (QFF); and co-ordinated submissions through these and other peak bodies such as the [National Irrigator's Council](#) (NIC), the Agricultural Industries Energy Taskforce (AIET) and Energy Consumers Australia (ECA). This evidence is at last beginning to be reflected in reports being prepared for governments by investigatory institutions such as the [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#) (ACCC) and the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).

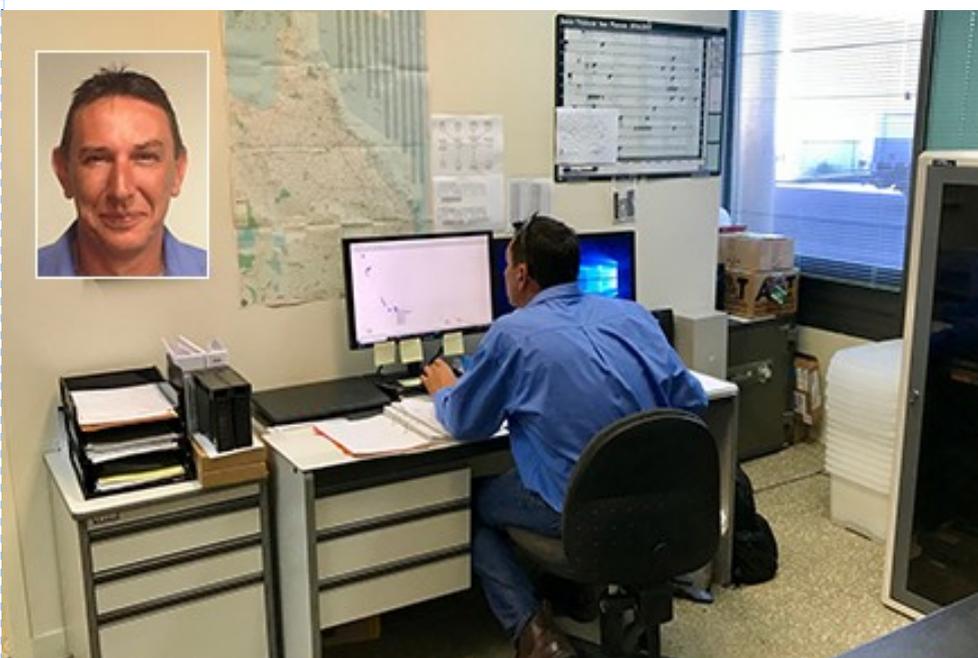
PVWater's focus at this point is in gaining access to relevant Ministers to lay out the potential impacts of tariff changes flagged for 2020. These endeavours are being supported through our involvement with the NIC and AIET, but also through face to face representations to local MP's. A big thank you to irrigators who have assisted in this area.

Bulk Water : The current Bulk Water price path was previously extended to seven years to expire on 30 July 2019, however given that the Queensland government has not yet given a directive to the QCA to commence investigations for recommendation of a new price path, it seems likely that the current price path might be further extended by a further 6-12 months to allow for adequate input by stakeholders.

SunWater has produced a Network Service Plan (NSP) including price path projections for revenue and expenditure in the Pioneer River Supply Scheme (PRWSS) indicating a potential for steep increases in bulk water charges under the government's existing policy [regarding how rural irrigation water prices are set](#). QFF, of which PVWater is a Member, has managed to obtain some funding to assist with scrutinising the capital and operational expenditure data set out in SunWater's NSP's across Queensland. PVWater will be advocating on behalf of irrigators on this issue, and also on specific issues such as allocation of dam safety expenditure and insurance costs, and whether the current cost allocation model is equitable (or affordable).

This newsletter can be accessed on-line at www.pvwater.com.au/newsletter_30_jul_2018 should you wish to follow any of the hyperlinks in this article.

New Operations Officer ...



Scott Johnston has joined PVWater in the role of Operations Officer. Scott spent the last 10 years in the mining industry on various sites in the Bowen basin, and prior to that had spent 13 years in the bulk water industry operating dams and weirs along the Burnett River including participation in the commissioning of Ned Churchward Weir, Paradise Dam and numerous other tasks involved with bulk water distribution. Scott has now been with the Pioneer Valley Water team for the better part of 11 months and is proving a solid contributor to provision of a dependable and sustainable irrigation water supply to all of PVWater's members.