



# Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

Newsletter Date June 08

### *In this Newsletter we cover the following areas:-*

- Urgent Notice - Clean up around water meters
- Water Supply Situation
- Flood Damage
- Update on PVWater Co-operative
- 2008/2009 Budget and Water Charges

### **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

## *URGENT NOTICE*

Many of the water meter installations in the scheme have become very overgrown and are extremely difficult to readily locate. This presents a serious Workplace Health and Safety risk to our staff and requires your urgent attention to clean up around your water meter. One of our staff recently had a very close encounter with a snake at an outlet while reading the water meter.

The Board has determined that any water meters that have not been cleaned around will have a clean up arranged by the Board. The full cost of the clean up will be charged to the irrigators account.

### **Water Supply Situation**

With Teemburra Dam filling during the February rain we are now in a very favourable situation for water supply for the next two to three years for our scheme. We will have 100% announced allocation for 2008/09 and, with a reasonable wet season in 2009, should have high allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

SunWater suffered some damage to the inflatable rubber bags on Dumbleton Weir during the flooding which has the weir only storing water to the fixed crest level. SunWater will carry out repairs as soon as the flow in the river subsides sufficiently so that they can get onto the weir crest. Stored water will be lost from the system if the repairs are not completed by SunWater before the natural flow in the river stops. It is very fortunate that Teemburra Dam has filled this year as the loss of storage at Dumbleton would have an impact on our announced allocation if Teemburra had been low. Irrigators drawing from Dumbleton Weir will have to manage with low water level until the repairs are completed.

Also, SunWater continue to have problems with the outlet valve from Teemburra Dam into Cattle Creek. The recently installed new control valve has failed and has now been removed for repair. Releases into Cattle Creek cannot be accurately managed without the control valve. We have raised our concerns on this with SunWater.



## **Flood Damage**

We did not escape from the flooding in January and February and have had to undertake some repairs over the last few weeks. The worst damage was at the Silver McGregor Pump Station where the flood in Cattle Creek in late January breached the levee bank and eroded around the surge tank and pipeline. This area is covered under our flood insurance policy and we have submitted a claim to our insurers for the repairs.

We also had some erosion at some pipeline crossings of creeks in the Septimus area with the worst at Seven Mile Creek on the Gargett to Septimus Road. There was also some damage to the access road to the Palmyra Pump Station, some slumping of the banks of the Bakers Creek Channel and damage to the controls for McKay's Weir in lower Bakers Creek.

Unfortunately Greg and Carol Dawes had water in their unit in North Mackay and lost a lot of their possessions including Carol's car and Greg's PVWater vehicle. Both vehicles have been replaced under insurance and they are gradually getting the repairs done to their unit and hope to be able to move back in soon.

**Flood Damage at Silver/  
McGregor  
Pump Station  
Jan 2008**



### **Update on PVWater Co-operative**

The Minister for Natural Resources and Water, Hon Craig Wallace recently introduced into State Parliament legislation to amend the Water Act 2000 to change the requirements for conversion of water authorities into alternative institutional structures. This amendment was passed on 15 May and it will allow us to now proceed with the conversion of Pioneer Valley Water Board into the two new Co-operatives as we have been progressing over the last two years. This is a very important milestone in our move to gain local ownership for the irrigation scheme. We will provide you with further information on the conversion as we move through the formal process as required under the legislation.

### **2008/2009 Budget and Water Charges**

The Board has commenced to look at our budget for next year and unfortunately, as with all areas today, we are confronted with some unavoidable cost increases which will impact on water charges. With CPI at over 4% we expect that the increase to our Bulk Water Charge from SunWater will be approximately \$3.00 per megalitre for 2008/2009. We will again look very closely at our own costs to minimize overall increase to water charges however, most of the areas where increases are required (SunWater bulk water, electricity) are totally beyond our control. The budget and 2008/2009 water charges will be set at the June Board Meeting.