



Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

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In this Newsletter we cover the following areas:-

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2008/2009 Announced Allocation

As foreshadowed in our earlier Newsletter, the Announced Allocation for our scheme for 2008/2009 has been set at 100%. This is the first time since 2002/2003 that we have had full allocation available at the **start** of the new water year and is at least one positive for us in a very difficult time with spiralling costs confronting us all.

Teemburra Dam and the Pioneer River Weirs are all full except for Dumbleton Weir where repairs are still to be done to the fabridams. SunWater hope to carry this work out during this month.

Water Meter Cleanup

The end of year meter readings have now been completed and we are most appreciative of the efforts of those irrigators who have cleaned up around their water meters so that it is safe for our meter reader.

There are still a number of meter installations that require attention and we ask that this be given urgent attention. As advised previously, the Board will have the clean up done at your cost if it is not completed before the next quarterly meter reading. We have documented the condition of all meter installations and will be inspecting those identified as requiring attention prior to the next meter reading round. We will arrange clean up around those meters if it is still required.

For Sale

A number of members have contacted us to place their Water Allocations up for temporary transfer to another irrigator or for permanent sale. We maintain this information on a register and act as an intermediary to place buyers and sellers into contact with each other. Please give us a call if we can assist you with this in any way. This service is provided at no cost to members of the Co-operative.

Don't forget to visit our website www.pvwater.com.au to keep up to date with what is happening



Water Charges 2008/2009

The Board has now determined the water charges for 2008/2009. The charges are shown in the following table.

In setting this year's budget, the Board was very aware of the pressures that are on agricultural production and has closely scrutinised all cost areas that are under Board control. Unfortunately some cost areas are outside of Board control and these have played a major part in the increases to Access Charge ranging from \$2.55/ML to \$3.65/ML. Of the increases, SunWater Part A Bulk Water Charge accounts for \$1.72/ML to \$1.89/ML depending on the scheme, Board Administration 68 cents/ML and Operations and Maintenance 15 cents/ML to \$1.10/ML. This is the last year of large increases to the SunWater Bulk Water Charge five year price path. For the remaining two years we will only be subjected to CPI increases

With the Usage Charge, increases range from \$1.40/ML to \$2.55/ML and comprise SunWater Part B Bulk Water Charge increase of \$1.36/ML to \$1.48/ML depending on the scheme. The other main increase is from electricity charge increase of 55cents/ML to 90 cents/ML.

The loan repayment Levy Charge remains the same as for previous years. Based on current information, the original loan will be paid out in December 2013 and the deferred loan in June 2016.

AREA	Access Charge \$/ML	Usage Charge \$/ML	Levy Charge \$/ML
Riparian	21.35	7.50	18.60
Palmyra	25.50	22.20	23.00
Silver McGregor			
Pipeline	25.70	26.10	27.40
Creek	25.70	26.10	23.00
Septimus	31.05	32.50	27.40
Palm Tree Creek			
Pipeline	29.20	11.35	36.20
Cattle Creek	23.60	8.45	23.00

For Non-members of Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative enclosed with this Newsletter is the Schedule of Service Charges that will apply for 2008/2009. This is in accordance with the supply contract between the Co-operative and Non-members. The Service Charges do not apply to Co-operative members.

Works Program 2008/2009

The heavy rain earlier this year left us with some erosion damage to some parts of the scheme. Also we have undertaken an Occupational Health and Safety Audit of the infrastructure and identified some work required to provide safe access for our staff. A Works Program has been put together for 2008/2009 to carry out the erosion repairs and to address the safety issues. In view of the very difficult financial conditions at present, the Board has decided to fund all of this program from reserve funds with no impact on water charges for 2008/2009.

Water Ordering

With the cane harvest well underway and moving into our normal dry period, we expect that the irrigation demand will increase over the next few weeks. Please remember that in all areas except the Palm Tree Creek Pipeline, water orders must be placed into the Water Ordering System in accordance with the notice periods for each area. We cannot run the scheme at peak efficiency and hence minimum cost unless we have full adherence to the Water Ordering Procedure. Please give us a call on 49578481 if you require an update on the Procedure.