



# Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

Newsletter Date December 08

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following areas:-*

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- Water Allocation Trading
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## *Important Notice - Water Ordering*

With the very dry conditions prevailing at present the requirement to place water orders is now extremely important. Under the Resource Operations Plan, SunWater and PVWater are only permitted to release water from Teemburra Dam and the Weirs based on the known demand for water throughout the system. SunWater receive details from us on a daily basis for the demand for irrigation water in our scheme and we can only provide the information that we get from the water orders that you place with us.

If you pump without placing a water order you are taking someone else's water and this can lead to irrigators running out of supply. This applies not only in our reticulation areas where we pump water but also in the Riparian areas where SunWater make the releases.

Please assist everyone during this period of high demand by ensuring that you order water correctly and that you take your water strictly in accordance with your order. Please contact us (4957 8481) if you need any help with water ordering.

Water ordering is required in all areas except the Palm Tree Creek Pipeline Scheme.

## **2008 Annual General Meeting**

Although not well attended this year, the Annual General Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November was very successful. The Board provided details of the scheme operations for the year and an update on progress with conversion to a co-operative. A presentation was also given on Continuous Water Sharing which is an alternative to the traditional method based on annual announced allocations. Continuous Water Sharing is operating in two schemes in Queensland at present and will be assessed for implementation in the Burdekin over the next two years. We will monitor the work in the Burdekin to assess all aspects for possible introduction into the Pioneer in the future.

## **PVWB and PVW Co-op Board Elections**

Annette Werner stood down as a Director of PVWater Co-operative at the recent Annual General Meeting. She has also tendered her resignation from the Pioneer Valley Water Board. Annette has been with the Board since its formation in 1996 and has been instrumental in guiding the scheme to the successful position it is in today. We all thank Annette for her time on the Board and wish her well for the future.

There was only one nomination for the vacant Member Director position and Stephen Russell, a Riparian irrigator from Pleystowe was elected to the Board of PVWater Co-operative Ltd. Independent Director Clive Desbois was also reappointed to the Board of the Co-operative at the Annual General Meeting.

Triennial elections for the Pioneer Valley Water Board are required to be held by April 2009. In view of this timing the Board has decided not to fill the vacancy with Annette Werner's resignation at this time and will wait until early next year for the full election. Steve Russell has been invited to act as an observer for the Pioneer Valley Water Board prior to the elections.



## Getting the best from your sugar cane crop with irrigation

The following table shows the returns available for one megalitre of irrigation water applied to a sugar cane crop. The calculations are based on a sugar price of \$380/Tonne, ccs of 13.75 and harvest cost of \$7.50/Tonne which gives a grower return of \$27/Tonne of cane.

Method of irrigation	Crop yield from irrigation (Tonnes of cane per ML)	Gross return (\$ per ML)
Flood irrigation	5 - 10	135 - 270
Gun irrigator	7 - 10	189 - 270
Centre pivot/trickle	8 -12	216 - 324

Of course you need to deduct your own pumping costs and our usage water charges from the gross return. Usage water charges range from \$7.50/ML to \$32.50/ML throughout the schemes and with pumping costs around \$50.00/ML there is the potential for significant returns to be realised by applying irrigation water now to your crop.

The information above has been made available by BSES, MAPS and Canegrowers and further information is available from those agencies.

### Water Allocation Trading

With the increased water use due to dry conditions, it is possible that some irrigators may be getting close to their full allocation and you need to be watchful to ensure that you remain within your annual limit.

We have registered a significant volume of water allocation within the scheme that is available either for temporary trade for this water year or for permanent transfer. Please get in touch with us in the first instance if you are looking for additional water allocation. We will explain the process required for a water trade and put you in touch with those who have allocation available. We provide this service at no cost to Co-operative Members.

### Meter Outlet Clean Up

We sincerely thank all those who responded to our recent request and cleaned up around their meter outlets. The response was most encouraging and our task of quarterly meter reading has been made much safer and more efficient in that the meters can be easily located.

### Christmas Greetings

This will be our last Newsletter for 2008 and the Board and Staff wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best for a prosperous 2009.

Our Office will be open over the holiday period except for the public holidays. You can contact us in an emergency on 0417 767 148 (John Palmer) or 0417 635 245 (Greg Dawes).

