



# Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

Newsletter Date June 09

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

- Water Meter Cleanup
- Board of Directors
- Mirani and Dumbleton Weirs Fabridams
- Update on PVWater Co-operative

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### Water Meter Cleanup

Many of the water meter installations in the scheme have again become very overgrown and are extremely difficult to readily locate. This presents a serious Workplace Health and Safety risk to our staff and again requires your urgent attention to clean up around your water meter.

We were very pleased with your response to our request last year and we ask for your continuing assistance with this. The next quarterly meter readings will be done in late June and early July 2009.

The Board policy remains 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.

### Board of Directors

Due to a very heavy work load in his legal practice, John Formosa has advised the Board that he is unable to continue as an Independent Director on the Board. The Board has approached Bill Cooper, another well known local solicitor, who has agreed to take over the position.

The Board and staff thank John for his very valuable contribution during his period as a Director which commenced in 2003.

### Mirani and Dumbleton Weirs Fabridams

SunWater have kept us informed on the situation with the rubber fabridams that have been deflated on the two weirs since late 2008. This was as a result of the tragedy that occurred at Blackwater following the sudden deflation of the fabridam on Bedford Weir.

SunWater are investigating options for Mirani and Dumbleton Weirs but will not be making any decisions until the coronial inquest into the Blackwater tragedy has been completed. The fabridams on the weirs will remain down during this period.



Update on PVWater Co-operative

The Government recently completed an independent review of all Government bodies including Water Boards. The review recommended that all Category 2 Water Authorities (including Pioneer Valley Water Board) should be abolished and their responsibilities transferred to local government. Local government should then have the flexibility to determine between delivering the water service themselves or using alternative (non- government) institutional arrangements such as local co-operatives or incorporated associations. The review further recommended that the Treasurer waives any transfer duties that may be applicable for the move out of government ownership.

The Queensland Government has, at this time, offered support in principle for the recommendations and is now to undertake consultation with Water Boards and local government before progressing further.

The recommendations from the independent review align very closely to what we have been attempting to achieve with conversion of Pioneer Valley Water Board into a co-operative. Just prior to the review, we were negotiating with the Government on the matter of payment of stamp duty for the transfer of the scheme to the co-operative and we had made some progress with it.

Although we are very pleased with the recommendations from the independent review, we are concerned that the government consultation process involving all Water Boards and local government could cause further significant delay with our request for conversion that we lodged in June 2004.

We have met recently with the new Director General of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (previously Dept of Natural Resources and Water) and put a strong case for our situation to be considered separately to their consultation process with all Water Boards. The initial response from the Director General was supportive of this approach being adopted. We are now waiting for formal advice from the Department on how our conversion to a co-operative will be progressed from here.