



# Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

Newsletter Date July 2010

### Water Charges 2010/2011

Pioneer Valley Water has adopted its budget for 2010/2011 and set the water charges for the year. The charges are shown in the following table.

AREA	Access Charge \$/ML	Usage Charge \$/ML	Levy Charge \$/ML
Riparian	23.80	7.95	18.60
Palmyra	28.75	26.40	23.00
Silver McGregor			
Pipeline	29.10	31.45	27.40
Creek	29.10	31.45	23.00
Septimus	34.90	39.20	27.40
Palm Tree Creek			
Pipeline	33.90	12.05	36.20
Cattle Creek	26.55	9.00	23.00

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

- Water Charges 2010/2011
- Announced Allocation
- Clean Up Around Water Meters
- Water Ordering
- SunWater Bulk Water Charges

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The budget for 2010/2011 has been based largely on 3% CPI increases for most items with the exception of electricity where a 13% increase has been included. This increase in electricity charges was announced recently by the Government and comes after a 15% increase last year.

Access Charges include the \$1.25/ML increase in the asset renewal charge in all areas in accordance with our advice to you in April 2010. Overall Access Charges have risen by \$1.85/ML of which a further \$0.30/ML is the SunWater Part A Bulk Water Charge increase.

Usage Charge increases range from \$0.20/ML to \$3.35/ML and comprise SunWater Part B Bulk Water Charge increase of \$0.20/ML. The electricity charge increase in the pumped schemes ranges from \$1.78/ML to \$2.96/ML.

The loan repayment Levy Charge remains the same as for previous years.

For Non-members of Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative enclosed with this Newsletter is the Schedule of Service Charges that will apply for 2010/2011. 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.



**ANNOUNCED ALLOCATION 2010/2011**

With Teemburra Dam at full supply level, Announced Allocation for the 2010/2011 Water Year has been set at 100% from 1st July. This means again that Streamflow Allocation Periods will not need to be declared during the 2010/2011 Water Year.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE— CLEAN UP AROUND WATER METERS**

Richard Faulkner has just completed the water meter readings for the end of the 2009/10 water year. He has reported that many of the water meter installations in the scheme are again very overgrown and are extremely difficult to readily locate. Pioneer Valley Water has an obligation to provide a safe working environment for its employees and this is not possible with inaccessible water meters for the quarterly readings.

We have raised this matter repeatedly over the last three years and cannot stress too strongly the need for you to assist with maintaining the area around your meters. We are required under the Resource Operations Plan for the Pioneer Valley to read all water meters at the end of September, December, March and June each year and provide details of water use to SunWater.

If we do not receive greater cooperation in this, the Board will have no option than to impose a “Meter Clean Up Fee” for inaccessible water meters and arrange for the clean up to be done. The fee would be added to the water charges account for the irrigator(s) involved and would include the cost of arranging for the clean up.

**WATER ORDERING**

**Please remember that you are required to place a water order each and every time you intend to take water under your allocation (Palm Tree Creek—Pipeline water users excepted)**

**Please take some time to visit our web-site <http://www.pvwater.com.au> where you can:**

- **Find out general information about Pioneer Valley Water Board and Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Limited;**
- **Check the current supply availability for your specific irrigation scheme;**
- **Read the latest (or previous) PVWater newsletter, information bulletin or annual report;**
- **Find explanatory information about such things as announced allocation, streamflow allocation, water charges and more; and**
- **Find out how to place and vary water orders.**

**SUNWATER BULK WATER CHARGES**

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has been directed by the Premier and Treasurer of Qld to recommend irrigation water prices in SunWater schemes for the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2016. Of major concern has been the announcement by the Qld Government of their intention to seek a rate of return on SunWater head-works assets (dams and weirs) in this next price path. The other significant concern is the establishment of the true efficient costs for SunWater to operate the schemes.

QCA commenced the review process in May and held meetings with stakeholders in all SunWater schemes.

The meeting in Mackay on 21st May was very well attended by irrigators and the strong interest shown by PVWater irrigators at the meeting was noted by QCA.

QCA are expected to release very soon a number of Issues Papers dealing with various aspects of the proposed irrigation water pricing. We have joined with Mackay Sugar and Canegrowers Mackay to engage an independent consultant to prepare a detailed submission to QCA from the Mackay region. You can keep up to date with the pricing review on the QCA website at [www.qca.org.au/water/Sun-Irrig-Price/index.php](http://www.qca.org.au/water/Sun-Irrig-Price/index.php).