

From the Chair



Welcome to the December edition of the Theodore Water Newsletter.

Now that cotton season is in full swing, we are hoping for a substantial run in the river to see you through to another successful crop.

We recently held our AGM and Christmas Party that was well attended, we welcome the robust discussions, and we share your concerns.

Christmas is almost upon us, and we would like to wish all our shareholders, customers and their families a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to 2024 with enthusiasm.

Malcolm Finlayson

MODERNISATION UPDATE

Following the Shareholder Advisory Group and motion put forward to the board, it was resolved to halt works on the Theodore pump station upgrade to conduct an engineering peer review of the design. We understand that confidence levels in the project management are very low, and it is important that we run through a peer review process to improve this.



In the time since the meeting, we have drafted a Request to Quote document for the peer review, that is currently with our lawyers for final review. We have also contacted several engineering businesses that are interested in conducting the peer review. It is our intention to have the Request to Quote sent out prior to Christmas and decide on who will conduct the review in mid-January.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the local Theodore Water Irrigator Directors: Peter French – 0428166634 Kirk Anderson – 0429181079

DISTRIBUTION AND DRAINAGE AGREEMENTS

From November 9, 2023, ASIC reforms on Unfair Contract Terms (UCT) came into effect. These reforms make UCTs illegal and attract substantial penalties. In response to this, we have engaged a legal firm to review our distribution and drainage agreements and if necessary, amend the documents to bring them into line with the current legislation.

Once this is complete, we will issue the new distribution and drainage agreements to our shareholders for signing. This is likely to be completed in January. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, however it is very important that Theodore Water complies with all relevant legislation that applies to our business.

If you would like to read more on the Unfair Contract Terms reforms, please see the link below:

<https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/news-items/unfair-contract-terms-reforms-commence/#:~:text=From%209%20November%202023%2C%20reforms,can%20rely%20on%20UCT%20protections>

MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORM



In November we added an online maintenance request form to the Theodore Water website. This is to enable us to better track and prioritise any maintenance issues on the channel system. We encourage you to use this form to advise of maintenance issues in your area. In case of more urgent repairs, please continue to contact our friendly team directly.



Please see attached link to the maintenance request form. Your feedback or suggestions to improve the process is always welcome.

<https://www.theodorewater.com.au/maintenance-request/>

Maintenance Request

Name (Required)

First Last

Phone (Required)

Email (Required)

Location notes
Farm, channel, meter number etc

Request type (Required)

Weed control

Channel erosion/leak

Structure maintenance

Structure damage

Upgrade/replacement

Other

Does the request require an emergency repair? (Required)

Yes

No

Is there an immediate safety risk? (Required)

Yes

No

Photos

Drop files here or [Select files](#)

Accepted file types: jpg, jpeg, heif. Max. file size: 300 MB.

[Send request](#)

SHUTDOWN RULES

Our Distribution Rules and Standards are available to view on our website. More specifically, rules relating to planned and unplanned shutdowns are contained in this document.



Theodore Water recognises that the following are important service issues for customers for planned shutdowns.

- That customers will be notified about a shutdown so that they can plan ahead.
- The timing of the shutdown should suit most customers.
- The duration of the shutdown should minimise the impact on customers, while enabling Theodore Water to safely perform maintenance on the scheme.

If you would like further information and details, please use the below link.

https://www.theodorewater.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Distribution-Rules-and-Standards-Theodore-Water-2018-19_v2.pdf

TEMPORARY TRADE - LOSS ALLOCATION

With the recent allocation announced, we have reviewed our distribution efficiency which remains in a favourable position. This has allowed our Board of Directors to authorise the offer of 250ML of loss allowance for temporary trade to shareholders.

As allocations are announced throughout the season, we will continue to review our loss water provision and make excess available for purchase by our shareholders.

SOME INTERESTING READS

Some articles of interest that might be worthwhile in your decision-making process during the summer cropping season. Including one from 2019 about irrigated summer crop options and another discussing nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency and the implications for cotton gross margins.

<https://groundcover.grdc.com.au/crops/coarse-grains/sorghum-offers-lower-risk-option-in-dry-times>

<https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/publications/economics-n-management-june-2023>



CSIRO WEEDSCAN APP

On the 12th of December, CSIRO released WeedScan, Australia's first artificial intelligence (AI) weed identification, notification and management app. It aims to help farmers, land managers, local councils, Landcare and people across Australia better manage our national and local weed burdens.

See the below link to learn more.

<https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2023/December/New-AI-powered-app-set-to-transform-weed-management-in-Australia>



FUN WATER FACT

75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water.

