

From the Chair



Welcome to the May issue of the Theodore Water Newsletter.

Significant river flows have continued and allowed us to pump over 6500ML of flood harvest this year.

Inclement weather has proved a challenge for our irrigators this season. Reports are that yields may be below expectation, however hopefully some more welcome sunshine to maintain quality and continuing solid prices will help to soften the blow. Happy Harvesting!

Malcolm Finlayson
Chair

MODERNISATION UPDATE

Peer Review

Engeny has completed its preliminary review on the Theodore Pump Station and provided a comment register that Dileigh is in the process of providing a response to. The initial finding is that the pump station design is fit for its intended purpose. The comment register is essentially information gaps in the detail that need to be clarified before the issued for construction (IFC) plans can be completed. We have asked Dileigh to complete the IFC plans based on the additional information required from the comment register. Once these information gaps are closed, we are less likely to have cost blowouts due to oversights in the planning.



During the review process, we have spent some time sounding out businesses that are willing to offer project management support to take the pump station through to completion. We have identified 5 suitable parties, all with extensive experience in water supply and they have been provided request for quotation documents to enable them to provide submissions for us to review. Further updates will be provided once more information comes to hand.

Pipeline Review

John Bower has completed his draft report for the review of the pipeline leaks. His review has encompassed the selection and suitability of the pipes, pipe and seal quality and installation. Part of the review has involved excavation of some of the leaks to measure the joint gaps and these were found to be largely within the tolerance provided by the manufacturer.

During the excavation, our team repaired some of the leaks that were identified adjacent to Walloon St. We plan on excavating sections further north along Partridge Dr to identify and repair other leaks to hopefully remove the disruption they are causing the adjoining residents and the wider Theodore community. In the process a drainage point was placed near Walloon St to drain the pipeline trench into Castle Ck. This will allow us to monitor if there are further leaks while also reducing the likelihood of the leaks manifesting on the surface.

These running repairs are by no means the long-term solution to our problem and there will be on-going robust discussions on the remediation and liability moving forward. Our aim at this point is to provide some immediate action in fixing the leaks so we can refocus on our business of supplying water.

Some questions that have been raised from the review are correct supply of pipe, appropriateness of the quality tests conducted on the pipes, quality of the pipe and suitability of the pipe seal. Further internal pipe inspection will be required to provide more definitive answers and allow the fun to begin with rectifying and clarifying liability.



Other Modernisation Items

An update on other modernisation projects as part of our Strategic Asset Management Plan. We have received council approval for the plans for Hewitt's Crossing rationalisation and Letchford's Rd drain crossing. We have a further council approval in progress for re-instating the laneway behind the bifurcation box and for an additional outlet rationalisation project that will offer future savings. The project work for A1 headwall and crossings on E channel do not require council approval.

We are currently working on quotations for the civil works for each of the projects, supply of pre-cast materials and pattern approved meters. The crossings on E channel will be installed by Theodore Water staff and equipment.

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

As has been previously advised, Theodore Water has conducted its review of the Distribution and Drainage Contracts. Some amendments were necessary to bring the contracts into line with the ASIC reforms on Unfair Contract Terms that were introduced on 9 November 2023.

The updated contracts will be emailed and posted to you. We kindly ask that you carefully review the contract and, if everything is in order, sign where indicated. Once signed, please return directly to the Theodore Water Office in person, by post or pass onto one of our friendly irrigation staff.

A copy of the fully executed contracts will be returned to you once signed by the directors of Theodore Water.

Thank you for your understanding and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. It is very important that Theodore Water complies with all relevant legislation that applies to our business.

LAND VALUATION HIKES

On 26 March 2024, the Valuer-General issued land valuations for the Banana Shire.



The Banana Shire saw one of the highest increases in unimproved land values of 154%. A reminder for those that object to this increase, submissions need to be lodged no later than the 27th of May.

Please see the link below.

[AgForce urges landholders to challenge land valuation hikes. · AgForce · Advancing Rural Queensland \(agforceqld.org.au\)](https://www.agforceqld.org.au/news/2024/03/agforce-urges-landholders-to-challenge-land-valuation-hikes)

SHED MEETING



On Tuesday 28th May the Theodore Water Board will be holding its board meeting at the local office. The Shareholder Advisory Group will meet prior to this and following the board meeting we will have a shed gathering with our board members in attendance. Invites for the shed meeting will be emailed and posted on Facebook.

If there are any issues/suggestions you would like raised, please talk to your SAG representative so these can be discussed at the meeting. Your SAG representatives are Trevor Brownlie, Dan Austin, Mitch Anderson, Frank Van Bael and Andrew French.

SOME INTERESTING READS

An article from Cotton Info on the relative advantages and disadvantages of some cotton break crops.

https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/sites/default/files/tools/CottonRotation/Rotation_chart_Page_1small.pdf

For those less parochial Queenslanders there is some useful info that comes from south of the border! The NSW DPI is always a useful resource.

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1465890/Weed-control-in-winter-crops-2024.pdf

GRDC winter crop variety sowing guide.

https://nvt.grdc.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/593616/GRDC2024_SowingGuide QLD_web.pdf?utm_source=website&utm_medium=download_link&utm_campaign=pdf_download&utm_term=No_rth&utm_content=Queensland%20Winter%20Crop%20Sowing%20Guide&gl=1*vmpdq9*ga*MzE5MDQ0MTUxLjE3MDkxNjgONTA.*ga_ZTGWWXHVR*MTcxNDU0ODU5NC4yLjAuMTcxNDU0ODU5NC42MC4wLjA

FUN WATER FACT

Ever wondered why one litre of water weighs exactly one kilogram? Or why that one litre fits exactly into a 10cm cube?

Well, when the French Academy of Sciences sat down to whip up the metric system, they wanted it to be truly universal, so they based it on the natural world. A meter was to be one ten-millionth of the distance between the Equator and the North Pole. A litre was to be the amount of water that could fit into a 0.1 meter square. The weight of that water was to be called a kilogram.

