

From the Chair



Welcome to the March issue of the Theodore Water Newsletter. Following Peter French's retirement from the board, we welcomed Dan Austin into the fray. We look forward to working with Dan and the valuable contributions he will offer.

Sadly, we farewelled Greg Austin last week. Greg was a valued member of the Theodore Water Board and helped guide us to where we are today. Our thoughts remain with Greg's family at this time.

It is nice to see cotton picking has commenced with some solid yields recorded so far. We look forward to continuing fine weather to see the picking season through and maintaining high quality and yield. Our current Med-A allocation sits at 86% and with weir heights remaining high, we are hopeful of allocation reaching 100% soon which will set up for a positive start to the spring planting season.

Malcolm Finlayson
Chair

MODERNISATION UPDATE

Pump Station

Tenders have been invited to engage a design engineer in respect of the Theodore Pump Station project. Submissions are due on Monday 17th March and we will look to engage the engineer shortly after. There are six businesses that were invited to tender but given the complexities around this project we are likely to see only four submissions for us to consider.



Once the plans have been reviewed and if necessary amended, costings and contractor availability confirmed we will be able to provide a more accurate indication of the schedule and forecast completion dates.

While we are mindful of delays that have occurred to date, it remains our priority to ensure that the pump station is delivered to a high quality and will provide us with a fit for purpose asset well into the future.

Pipeline Review

Our review into the leaks of the pipeline continue and we are gathering more information as we expose and repair leaks. The joint tester was ordered and commissioned in Brisbane last week. Transport has been arranged, and it will be delivered to Theodore in readiness for pressure testing individual pipe joints.

We are continuing to investigate remediation and will be looking to consider the options available to us over the coming month. As previously mentioned, our main considerations for the remediation are cost, design life, community impacts and reducing disruption to the network.

Our team continues to monitor leaks as they arise. Our biggest concern is the significant leaks and water flowing over the road towards the end of A pipeline. We have not had the opportunity to investigate these leaks due to the demand for water, however we will endeavour to patch these when the next opportunity presents.

Again, we thank you for your patience and particularly recognise the efforts of the Theodore Water staff in managing this situation.



Other Modernisation Items

An update on other modernisation projects as part of our Strategic Asset Management Plan. Now that irrigation is starting to wind down our team has started working to coordinate timing to complete these works in the coming months. The first priorities are Hewitt's Crossing outlet, A1 Headwall, Letchford's Rd drain crossing and Anderson's outlet.

We will work towards replacing the first crossing on E-Channel and use the opportunity to desilt the channel at the same time. We will look at completing these works mid-year and will continue to liaise with the affected irrigators to best schedule the works.

We are currently working on designs for the C-Channel siphon that lacks required capacity and is a significant choke point in our network.

Understandably, all these works will create some disruption to our network however, the efficiency and capacity benefits they will provide moving forward is well worth the short inconvenience.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the local Theodore Water Irrigator Directors: Dan Austin – 0409 896 285 Kirk Anderson – 0429 181 079



SHAREHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

A reminder to all shareholders that the SAG is your conduit to raise concerns, questions and ideas through to the Theodore Water Board. Mitch Anderson is the Chair of your SAG and the other representatives are Andrew French and Frank Van Bael. Please contact your SAG representatives if you wish to have anything raised further to the board.

If there are items that need to be raised to the board, the SAG will aim to meet prior to the Theodore Water face to face board meetings in Theodore. This provides the opportunity to raise items immediately to the board meeting and allow further discussion at the Shed Meetings that follow. At a minimum the SAG will meet prior to the AGM. The face-to-face meetings scheduled for this year are 20 May, 29 July and 25 November.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SOME INTERESTING READS



GRDC (Grains Research & Development Corporation) - Upcoming Updates & Events

<https://grdc.com.au/events/list?f.Region=sregion=North&f.Region=sregion=National&form=wrapper&query=%21padrenull&collection=grdc-events-push>



Drones - Benefits and Use Cases For Drones

<https://www.drones.gov.au/benefits-and-use-cases-drones>

CQA Irrigation Price Path 2025 - 2029

The Queensland Competition Authority has issued its final report for the Rural Irrigation Price Review (Sunwater) for the period of 2025-2029. Click on the link below to read further.

<https://www.qca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/final-report-sunwater.pdf>

FUN WATER FACT

A koala can last longer between drinks than a camel.

In fact, koalas don't need to drink water at all – because they're so sedentary, they can get all of their required fluids from eating eucalyptus leaves. Camels, on the other hand, can only last six months without water.

