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December 2023

Eton Irrigation Co-op
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AUSTRALIA

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On-Call/Afterhours number **0409 605 720**

Water Order Number **07 4977 5840**

At a Glance – in this newsletter:

- **Annual General Meeting** – 14 members, 3 proxies.
- **Rules Amendments** – Reminder by email, text and website rather than newsletter - PASSED;
Penalties for not Ordering – NOT PASSED;
Meter readings only twice per year - PASSED. Therefore, no meter reading or ordering performance measures in the Water Statement with the Q3 invoice.
- **Price Changes for 2024/25** – 3% increase on fixed (to \$49.19/ML) & variable (to \$15.96/ML). No change to Account Fee (staying at \$600/year)
- **Announced Allocation** – 86%
- **Water Ordering** – 24 hours' notice as per the rules, will be enforced.
- **Acrolein Injection Program** – December injection cancelled.
- **New Mailing Address** – PO Box 173, WALKERSTON Qld 4751

Annual General Meeting

The EICL AGM was held on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023 at the Eton RFS shed at 7:30pm. 14 members were in attendance and 3 proxies were assigned.

Scheme Distribution Rules and Service Targets Amendments from AGM

Method of Shutdown Communications – PASSED 17-0

Replace

A reminder will be placed in a local newsletter approximately one week before any planned shutdowns of 2 weeks or greater commence.

With

A reminder will be placed on the EICL website and sent by email & text approximately one week before any planned shutdowns of 2 weeks or greater commence.

Penalties for not Ordering – NOT PASSED 11-6 (64.7% - needed 75% to pass)

Add the following section to the Scheme Distribution Rules and Service Targets on page 1 just before the Access Conditions heading:

Penalties for those that take water at more than 0.1ML/d without the required 24 hours' notice:

- ***First offence – Written warning***
- ***Second offence – locked off for a week, only opened by water officer during that period in line with an order with 48 hours' notice***
- ***Third offence – locked off for a month, only opened by water officer in line with an order with 48 hours' notice***

EICL Meter Reading Options – PASSED 17-0

That EICL reduce to 2 meter reads per year, one at the end of the second quarter (end of September) and one at the end of the water year (end of March).

Therefore, your Water Statement that comes with the Q3 invoice may have no new meter reading and will have no ordering performance chart or table.

The only meter readings will be the exceptional ones eg farm transfers.

C (fixed) and D (variable) both up by 3%

The Board has made the decision to raise the Fixed (Part C) and Variable (Part D) charges by 3% to \$49.19/ML and \$15.96/ML respectively. This is considerably less than the CPI for the last 12 months (5.4%) and also less than the CPI forecast for the next 12 months (around 4%). This is also around 16% less than the price path that would have been expected from SunWater.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that the 15% discount from the government on irrigation charges expires at the end of the 24/25 year. If this is not renewed and the SunWater pricing proposal is accepted by the QCA, it would result in an increase to the charges on our losses of nearly \$100,000 per year. An increase of 4% would need to be applied to EICL's charges to cover this alone.

Due to the uncertainty of those items, the Board has decided NOT to publish an indicative price path at this time. The State election is in October 2024 and the QCA should have their final report published by November 2024. Therefore, by December 2024 there should be clarity on the way forward and hopefully a price path can be published at that time.

Account fee to be left unchanged

When the Account fee was introduced in 2020, it was decided by the Board to not increase it every year by CPI, but to look at it every few years and make adjustments then. At the time CPI was running at very low levels (annual CPI at Sept 2020 was 0.7%) and it was thought that making an adjustment of CPI every year would only be small nuisance amounts (eg \$4.20 based on the 0.7%).

It was planned to examine the fee in Dec 2023 for adjustment in the 24/25 year. The CPI has gone up by 16% since transition until Oct 2023 = \$96. With the CPI currently running at 1.2% per quarter or 4.8% annualized, looking forward a year would equate to another \$33 giving an upper increase of \$129.

At the AGM, the motion was passed to remove 2 meter readings per year and it was explained that this would result in cost savings of \$100 per account. Therefore, based on the increase due to CPI and the decrease due to less meter readings, the board has made the decision to leave the Account Fee at \$600 per year for the next 3 years, at which time it will be reviewed again (Dec 2026 for the 27/28 year).

Announced Allocation

The Announced Allocation increased by 3% on the 1st December to 86%.

Water Ordering

A reminder that the Board has instructed EICL staff that the 24 hours' water ordering notice period as defined in the Scheme Distribution Rules and Service Targets is to be strictly enforced. Water orders on 07 4977 5840 stating:

- outlet number
- start date/time
- flow rate or total volume
- duration or stop date/time

Acrolein Injection Program

An examination of the weeds in the channel resulted in the Acrolein Injection planned for 11 December 2023 to 16 December 2023 being cancelled. If it is required, an injection will be done in early 2024 and customers will be notified.

New Mailing Address

Due to the closure of the Eton Australia Post Agency, EICL's new mailing address is:

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Austin Evans

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