



Mareeba-Dimbulah
LMA Irrigation Channel Scheme

E: mareeba-dimbulah@lmairrigation.com.au
W: www.lmairrigation.com.au
P: (07) 4092 6065

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Dear SunWater Customer,

Since the 1990s various groups, including irrigators, have been calling for the local management of SunWater's eight irrigation schemes, whereby distribution irrigation assets would be transferred to new entities, owned and controlled by irrigators in the scheme.

In October 2012, a preliminary report found broad support for a robust investigation of the local management option, and in December 2012, the Queensland Government announced an investigation into whether local management could be achieved.

For the Queensland government to decide whether local management is in the best interests of irrigators and the State, it has called on irrigators within the schemes to demonstrate how they would run them as long-term viable businesses. In April advertisements were placed in newspapers to establish interim boards to undertake an investigation of the options, consult with stakeholders and submit a business proposal to government.

I am pleased to advise that an Interim Board, with representatives of the Mareeba Dimbulah regions, has been established to investigate the feasibility of local management for the Mareeba Dimbulah irrigation channel scheme. It is also an opportunity to have a good look at the state of infrastructure and gain a better understanding of the cost drivers influencing water pricing in the scheme. The Interim Board met for the first time on Friday, 4 July and again on Thursday, 26 July, to discuss the preparation of the Mareeba Dimbulah scheme's business plan and prepare a schedule for consultation with all stakeholders.

The Interim Board members are:

Interim board chair	Joe Moro	0418 966 960
Interim board members	Brad Maisel	0438 934 469
	Maryann Salvetti	0409 637 044
	Murray Smith	0428 693 212
	Brett Stevenson	0458 326 744

I invite you to contact any of the interim board members directly on the numbers above to discuss local management for the Mareeba Dimbulah scheme or email us on: mareeba-dimbulah@lmairrigation.com.au.

The interim board will now meet monthly to consider how a business proposal for local management of the scheme, currently owned and run by SunWater could be effectively delivered whilst meeting Government and local stakeholder objectives.

We anticipate that an engineering due diligence of the assets, to establish their condition and replacement cost, will start in the coming months.

An important part of the process is to ensure we engage with all customers and present a business proposal that has broad support from irrigators and the wider community. To do this we invite your involvement in the process.

We will use the already established Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council as a reference group for the interim board. The Mareeba Dimbulah Interim Board invites you to join us to discuss local management of the Mareeba Dimbulah channel scheme.

We encourage you to join us and find out more by attending one or a number of the forums outlined below:

Date: Thursday 26th September 2013.

Venue: Dimbulah Soccer Club

Time: 10 AM

Date: Thursday 26th September 2013.

Venue: Mutchilba Community Hall

Time: 2 PM

Date: Thursday 26th September 2013.

Venue: Mareeba Soccer Club

Time: 7.30 PM

Date: Friday 27th September 2013.

Venue: Walkamin Sports and Community Centre

Time: 9 AM

We look forward to sharing our initial scoping material and thoughts and receiving your comments and feedback.

More information about the local management project is available at www.lmairrigation.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Joe Moro

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Moro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chair, Mareeba Dimbulah LMA Interim Board