

22 November, 2016

Dear Irrigation customer,

I write to advise that local management for SunWater's irrigation channels in Mareeba-Dimbulah is under consideration again with the State Government supporting a local board to undertake further investigation into the option.

An investigation board has been formed and includes accountant Graeme Kirkwood and irrigator Maryann Salvetti, experienced water resources manager, Murray Smith and former SunWater engineer Brett Stevenson. I will serve as Chair.

You will recall that in June 2014 the Mareeba scheme lodged a business proposal with the State Government to further explore the option of taking over the irrigation channels and water delivery responsibility. The board has received feedback from the Government in relation to that proposal and further support to continue to investigate local management for Mareeba-Dimbulah.

The first task of the investigation board will be to consider the feedback from the government and determine the viability of local management against the option of remaining with SunWater.

Between November this year and August next year the board will engage consultants to:

- undertake an engineering assessment (to update the review from the previous stage)
- revisit the proposed approach to management and operation of the scheme
- update the financial model and related projections
- understand and quantify risks associated with the transfer of scheme ownership.

During this process the board will rely on the assistance of two stakeholder groups to ensure a thorough assessment of the benefits and risks of both options is undertaken. They will include the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area Council members and key irrigators.

Based on this information collated, the board will prepare a revised business proposal and host a series of customer meetings to seek your views by 30 September 2017. If supported by scheme customers the business proposal will be submitted to government by 31 October, 2017.

More information is available by contacting me on 0418 966 960. You should also feel free to discuss the process with any of the board members.

I realise that the process around local management has been drawn out but I urge all of you to take the time over the coming months to voice your view on local control as an option for Mareeba-Dimbulah channel scheme.

Yours sincerely

Jo Moro  
**Chair**  
**Mareeba-Dimbulah Investigation Board**