

10 April, 2017

Dear Irrigation Customer,

As Chair of the Mareeba-Dimbulah LMA Investigation Board, I write to provide an update on the progress of the investigation into local management for SunWater's distribution system in Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area.

As you may recall the Stage 2 Board's proposal to undertake further investigation into options for local management of the irrigation scheme was submitted to the State Government in 2014. In November last year we received feedback from the Government in relation to our work to date.

The Stage 3 Investigation Board consisting of Murray Smith, Brett Stevenson, Maryann Salvetti, Graham Kirkwood and myself as Chair have been working to address the feedback from Government and to consider whether local management is a viable long term option that will be beneficial to all stakeholders.

The Board has established two irrigator reference groups comprising both large and small irrigators to ensure that we have input from a broad cross section of the scheme's customers during the investigation. The first meeting of these groups was held in late March and meetings will continue through until the Board has a proposal to put forward to all irrigators. Importantly, if it is apparent that the case for local management is not sufficiently strong or well supported at this time, then we will be approaching Government about alternate models for transitioning to local management which may include a combination of Government ownership and local management as an interim step toward full local management.

Engineering assessments and financial modelling are on track to support the preparation of our revised business proposal for submission to the State Government by 31 October 2017.

Prior to this, we will be providing detail of our stage 3 business proposal to all stakeholders to gauge your support and feedback. . We encourage you all to participate in this process and provide your feedback so that Government can gauge whether there is the strong majority customer support required to implement the outcomes of the business proposal.

Please feel free to contact Bronwyn Dwyer (board secretary) on 0740926065 or [bronwyn\\_dwyer@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:bronwyn_dwyer@canegrowers.com.au) or me directly on 0418 966 960 or [guiesppe@bigpond.com](mailto:guiesppe@bigpond.com) to discuss any aspect of this project.

Yours sincerely

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