



Media Release

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Interim board for Mareeba-Dimbulah channel irrigation scheme announced

Horticulturist Joe Moro will bring more than 30 years of irrigation experience to chair an interim board investigation into the options for the local ownership and management of Mareeba Dimbulah's channel irrigation scheme.

Joe Moro has been invited by the Minister of Energy and Water Supply, Mr Mark McArdle, to establish a five-member interim board to undertake the necessary due diligence of SunWater's channel irrigation assets and develop a business proposal for local management of the scheme.

"This is our chance to convince the government that we can own and operate the Mareeba channel scheme locally," Mr Moro said. "Local management means money paid for channel water will be invested and spent locally. It means we will be able to control our destiny by managing and upgrading our assets to meet local needs without paying for costly city overheads."

Mr Moro said irrigators, Bradford Maisel and Maryann Salvetti, experienced water resources manager, Murray Smith, and local businessman and former SunWater engineer, Brett Stevenson, will join him on the Mareeba-Dimbulah Interim Board.

"Each of these interim board members has intimate knowledge of the channel scheme and the business skills we need to build a compelling case for a local legal entity to own and manage the assets into the long-term," Mr Moro said.

Mareeba-Dimbulah is one of eight SunWater channel schemes being considered for local management. The others are Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Emerald, Eton, Lower Mary, Theodore and St George.

The boards are required to develop a business proposal for submission to government in November this year and will be supported by an independent project team led by irrigator and water commissioner, Ms Leith Bouilly.

"I am encouraged by the quality, experience and skills of the candidates who nominated to take on interim board positions across Queensland. It shows that local communities are keenly interested in finding a way to make local management work," Ms Bouilly said.

To be part of the process, contact the board or find more information about local management for channel irrigation schemes at www.lmairrigation.com.au.

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