

## Media Release

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### Chairs for eight interim channel irrigation boards announced

Chairs for each of the interim boards investigating the options for local management of eight Queensland channel irrigation schemes have been invited by the Minister of Energy and Water Supply, Mr Mark McArdle, to establish their boards and lead the development of commercial business plans.

Leader of the project team and Independent Chair of the Local Management Arrangements Working Group, Ms Leith Bouilly, said a strong field of candidates had applied to join the interim boards, following an April call for expressions of interest.

“I am encouraged by the impressive quality, experience and wide-ranging 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.

“It is now possible for locals to start a thorough assessment of local management and its potential benefits for irrigators and their communities.”

“This process will only be successful if the interim boards drive the process and present robust proposals to government that are in the best interest of all customers,” she said.

The interim boards will undertake the necessary due diligence of the assets and develop business proposals for submission to government in November this year. Government is seeking proposals that demonstrate long-term financial sustainability for the schemes and show that the benefits to the state outweigh the costs involved in transferring the assets. Strong support from scheme customers will be a critical factor in the decision making process.

The chairs for each scheme are:

- Maurie Maughan – Bundaberg
- Mario Barbagallo – Burdekin-Haughton
- David Braddock – Lower Mary
- Annette Smith – Emerald
- Geoff Kavanagh – Eton
- Joe Moro – Mareeba-Dimbulah
- Scott Armstrong – St George
- Liz Alexander – Theodore.

For full details on the membership of each interim board and further information on the local management for irrigation channel schemes project go to [www.lmairrigation.com.au](http://www.lmairrigation.com.au).

Media Contact: LMA Communication officer Maria Ceresa 0417 222 529.

Level 3, 41 George Street  
BRISBANE, QLD 4000  
E: [info@lmairrigation.com.au](mailto:info@lmairrigation.com.au)  
W: [www.lmairrigation.com.au](http://www.lmairrigation.com.au)  
P: (07) 3405 0356