

## Media Release

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### Interim board for Theodore channel irrigation scheme announced

Rural business consultant, Liz Alexander, will bring her long-term association with the Dawson Valley Cotton Growers Association to chair an interim board investigating the options for the local ownership and management of Theodore's channel irrigation scheme.

Liz Alexander has been invited by the Minister of Energy and Water Supply, Mr Mark McArdle, to establish an 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 the opportunity to assess the various options of management and ownership and identify if local ownership can improve the operation and viability of the Theodore channel scheme," Ms Alexander said.

"A crucial part of our role will be to undertake due diligence on the assets and propose a financially sustainable business framework that provides future benefit to local irrigators and receives wide support from the community."

Ms Alexander, an Emerald resident who has worked alongside cotton growers and irrigators for more than 12 years, said local irrigators Greg Austin, Kirk Anderson and Peter French, and National Water & Qld Policy Manager of Cotton Australia, Michael Murray, will join her on the Theodore Interim Board.

"I look forward to the first meeting of the interim board whose combined membership has the necessary knowledge of the channel scheme and the business skills we need to build a compelling case that shows how local management of the assets can provide certainty for the future," Ms Alexander said.

Theodore is one of eight SunWater channel schemes being considered for local management. The others are Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Emerald, Eton, Lower Mary, Mareeba-Dimbulah 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 website at [www.lmairrigation.com.au](http://www.lmairrigation.com.au).

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