



## Media Release

April 21, 2013

### **Call for local people to lead the investigation of new ways to manage channel irrigation schemes**

The Queensland government is providing a golden opportunity for irrigators in the Bundaberg, Burdekin, Emerald, Eton, Lower Mary, Mareeba, St George and Theodore schemes, to determine how local management can deliver benefits to customers.

Independent Chair of the Local Management Arrangements project, irrigator and national water commissioner Leith Bouilly said irrigators have long called for the local management of SunWater channel schemes and this process, supported by government and SunWater, could make it happen.

Advertisements, calling for expressions of interest for local people to join interim boards and put the case for local management appeared in newspapers and industry publications over the past week.

“This is a golden opportunity for local communities to take control of their own schemes, instead of having them managed from Brisbane,” she said.

“Investigations and the business plan development must be done locally to ensure ownership of viable schemes into the long term,” she said.

“If you are passionate about your region and your scheme please submit an expression of interest in a board role,” she said.

The Chairs of the interim boards will be invited to take up their positions by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, Mr Mark McArdle.

“This project potentially has enormous benefits for irrigators and the State,” Ms Bouilly said.

The business proposals will be submitted to government in November 2013, with a decision expected on whether to proceed to local management in the first part of next year.

For copies of position descriptions, draft board charter and information on how to lodge an expression of interest in the interim boards visit [www.lmairrigation.com.au](http://www.lmairrigation.com.au) or email the team on [info@lmairrigation.com.au](mailto:info@lmairrigation.com.au).

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