

18 December, 2017

Dear Irrigators,

RE: PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE HAUGHTON-BURDEKIN CHANNELS

I am pleased to advise that after receiving good support from irrigators, the Burdekin-Haughton Investigation Board has submitted its Business Proposal to government.

The government will now consider our Proposal and decide whether to allow the scheme to move to the next phase, (the Transition phase). If it decides to go ahead, government will appoint a new Transition Board to act on behalf of irrigators and negotiate details of the transfer, after which Government will make a formal offer to irrigators.

If agreement is reached each water allocation holder will receive an offer to accept or reject. At that stage a majority of allocation holders will need to return the form for local management to go ahead.

The Investigation Board appreciates the process has been a long one and there are still a number of steps to complete. We would therefore like to express our sincerest thanks to you for remaining engaged and keeping local management alive as an option for the Haughton-Burdekin.

The Board was pleased with the response to last month's request for support, particularly as it was the second time we have asked you to return a support form. Similar to 2014, we advised that failure to return the form would be assumed as support for the process continuing.

In total, 10 irrigation customers representing 25,771ML or 4% of the scheme allocation (332,377ML) voted against the proposal. Concerns ranged from the age of the infrastructure, pricing of water in the GBA, rising groundwater issues and the ability of Government to better fund repairs that the infrastructure may require into the future.

All concerns were recorded and will be matters that a future Board will need to address if the Burdekin-Haughton is to move to the next stage of local management.

The current Investigation Board, which comprises engineers Peter Gilbey and Dan Coutts, agronomist Evan Shannon, agricultural business manager Ian Davies and irrigators Mauro Garbuio and myself as Chair, will complete its term on 31 December this year and the scheme will await a decision from government. Information will continue to be available at www.lmairrigation.com.au.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow Board members and particularly the SunWater staff in the local office for their work and assistance. I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mario Barbagallo

Chair – Burdekin-Haughton Investigation Board