



Media Release

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Interim board for Lower Mary channel irrigation scheme announced

Retired sugar industry executive, David Braddock, will bring strategic management expertise and his long association with the Maryborough district to chair an interim board investigating the options for the local ownership and management of Lower Mary's channel irrigation scheme.

David Braddock 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 locals are best placed to own and cost effectively manage the Lower Mary channel scheme," Mr Braddock said.

Mr Braddock said irrigator, Allen Birt, former Maryborough Sugar Factory executive Greg Clarey, water engineer, Trevor Dean, and agriculture and environment consultant Sarah Lang, will join him on the Lower Mary Interim Board.

"This interim board has the knowledge of the scheme and the business skills we need to build a compelling case for a legal entity to own and manage channel assets into the long term," Mr Braddock said.

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

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 out more information about local management for channel irrigation schemes at www.lmairrigation.com.au.

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