



# 72nd Annual General Meeting & National Conference

26-27 October 2016

Dubbo RSL Club Resort, NSW



*Local Government – the Voice of the Basin*



*It's in the balance!*



Presented by:  
The Murray Darling Association  
Hosted by The Dubbo Regional Council



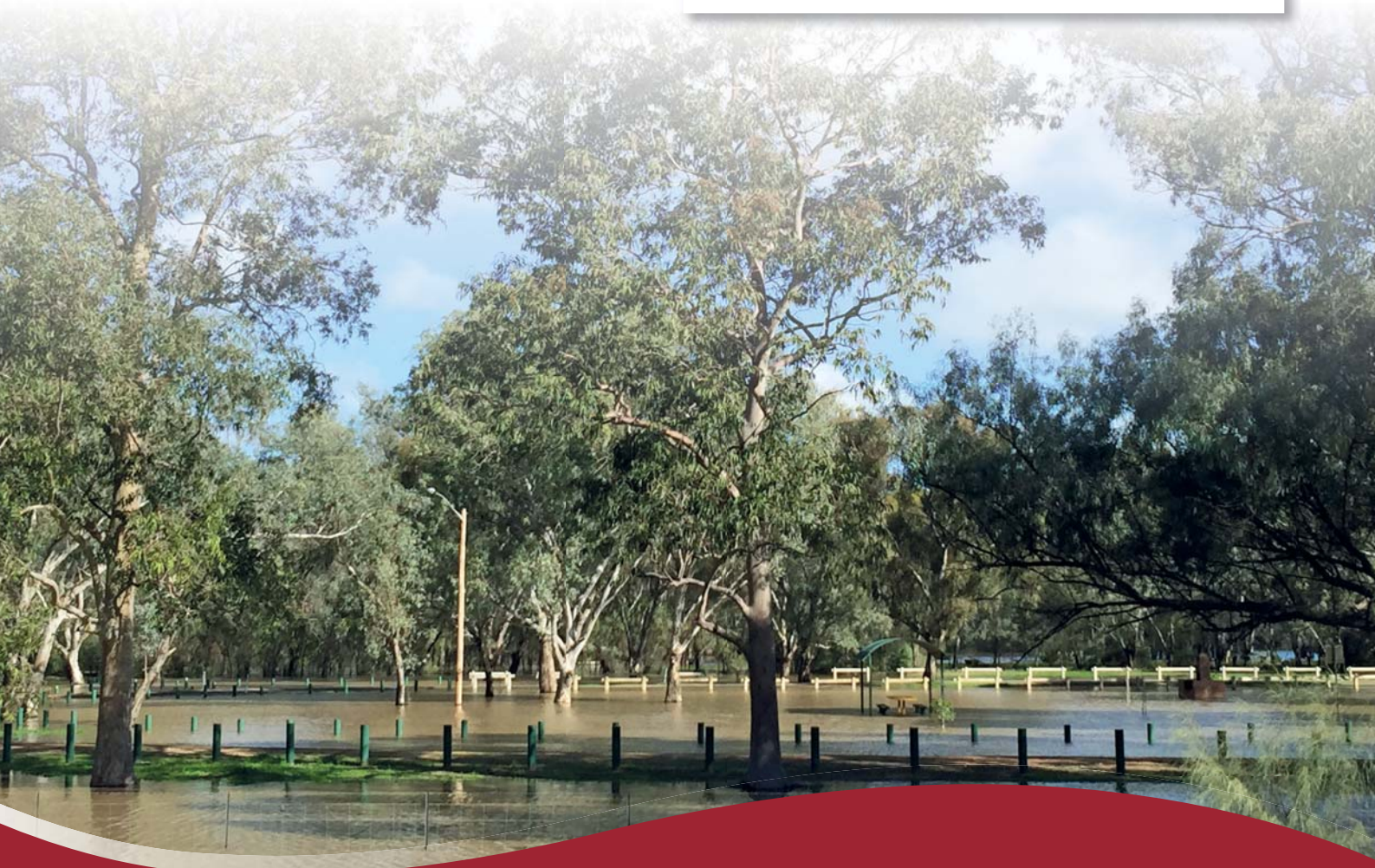
The MDA represents local government and the communities of the Murray Darling Basin: That is 14 percent of the land mass of Australia, encompassing 172 councils, 82 of which are currently members of the MDA. That is a powerful voice.

In 2014, Hon Craig Knowles then Chair of the MDBA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MDA. That MOU acknowledges the key role of local government in the governance of the Murray-Darling Basin, and the importance of local knowledge to effective decision making. Mr Knowles said “If the MDA didn’t exist, we’d have to invent it”, noting that local government must have the means and opportunity to actively participate in informing water policy to give best effect to the implementation of the Basin Plan.



The MDA’s strength and success relies upon the active participation of our member councils. It is the technical and professional expertise that is uniquely invested in local government, that gives voice to the needs of our communities, individually and collectively across the Basin.

## ***Local Government – the Voice of the Basin***





## WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016

- 8:00am** **Conference registration**  
*Dubbo RSL Club Resort  
Cnr Brisbane and Wingawarra Streets, Dubbo, NSW*
- 
- 9:00am** **Conference opens**  
*Welcome to Country – Waradjuri Country Welcome to Dubbo – Michael Kniepp, Dubbo Regional Council Administrator*
- 
- 9:15am** **Mark Coulton MP**  
*Federal Member for Parkes*
- 
- 9:30am** **Murray Darling Basin Authority**  
*Chairman Neil Andrews  
CEO Phillip Glyde*
- 
- 10:00am** **Reading of the motions**
- 
- 10:10am** **Andrew Sherman – Russell Kennedy Lawyers**  
*Reform of the MDA Constitution*
- 
- 10:30am** **MORNING TEA**
- 
- 10:50am** **Ken Rogers, Dubbo Regional Council**  
*A new era for MDA: The Voice of the Basin  
Introducing Narramine Shire Council Mayor, Craig Davies, Chair of R10*
- 
- 11:15am** **Mick Callan, Environment & Waterways Alliance**  
*Collaborating and adapting to meet environmental challenges*
- 
- 11:40am** **Mike Sutherland, Alkane Resources**  
*Mining and the balanced use and management of our water resources*
- 
- 12:05pm** **Digby Jacobs, NSW Dept of Primary Industries, Water**  
*Water extraction limits and demand patterns across the Basin.*
- 
- 12:25pm** **LUNCH**
- 
- 1:05pm** **Darren Ah See, Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Services**  
*Healthy Place, Healthy People*
- 
- 1:20pm** **Hypthetical Interactive: Ashley Bland**  
*Ashley hosts a panel of presenters: lively panel discussion explores what our Basin communities look like in the 2030s – 10 years on from the implementation of the Basin Plan*
- 
- 2:20pm** **Renmark-Paringa Council, SA**  
*National Conference 2017 host council presentation*
- 
- 2:35pm** **AFTERNOON TEA**
- 
- 3:00pm** **Annual General Meeting**  
*Chaired by National President Cr David Thurley.  
See Agenda online for details.*
- 
- BREAK**
- 
- 6:00pm** **Welcome Reception, – Old Dubbo Gaol**  
*Civic leaders & delegates to meet and greet.*

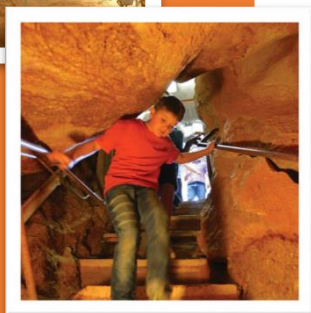
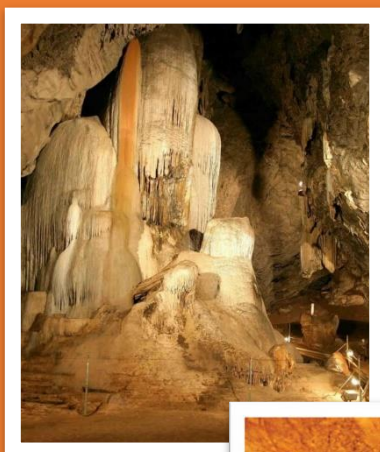
## THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016

- 8:30am to 3:30pm** **Regional study tour**  
*Study tour of points of regional significance presented by Dubbo Regional Council.*



# STUDY TOUR

## THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016



8.15am

### Assemble

Dubbo RSL Club

8.30am

### Coach Departs

Travel to Burrendong Dam with a presentation on route by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage on various topics including:  
**The Ephemeral Wetlands and the Management of the Macquarie Marshes.**

9.30am

### Arrive Burrendong Dam

Guided tour by NSW State Water

Morning Tea – at Burrendong

11am

### Depart Burrendong Dam

11.30am

### Arrive at Wellington Caves Complex

Enjoy features of the Cathedral Cave, Garden Cave and the Phosphate Mine. Various tours followed by Presentation by Andy Baker:  
**Hydrology of Caves**

1pm

### Lunch - Japanese Gardens

Enjoy a light lunch in the Japanese Gardens at the Caves Complex prepared by students of the **Clontarf Foundation**

2.00pm

### Depart for Dubbo

Travel to Dubbo. Presentation enroute by students of the Clontarf Foundation who are passionate about Science and the Environment

3.00pm

### Arrive Dubbo RSL Club – tour concludes.

This program may be subject to minor changes for scheduling, but we will endeavour to keep as close as possible to what appears here.





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## Conference speakers



**Mark Coulton MP**  
Federal Member for Parkes



**Michael Kneipp**  
Administrator,  
Dubbo Regional  
Council



**David Thurley**  
National President  
MDA, Chairman  
R1, Deputy Mayor  
Albury City Council



**Emma Bradbury**  
Chief Executive  
Officer - MDA



**Neil Andrew**  
Chairman - Murray  
Darling Basin  
Authority



**Phillip Glyde**  
Chief Executive  
- Murray Darling  
Basin Authority



**Andrew Sherman**  
Russell Kennedy  
lawyers



**Ken Rogers**  
Dubbo Regional  
Council - Director  
Corporate  
Development



**Mick Callan**  
Central West  
Councils  
Environment &  
Waterways Alliance



**Mike Sutherland**  
Alkane Resources  
Ltd as General  
Manager NSW



**Darren Ah See**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Wellington  
Aboriginal  
Corporation Health  
Services



**Ashley Bland**  
Senior Manager -  
Skillset



**Debbie Love**  
Senior Wetlands  
and Rivers  
Conservation  
Officer, NSW Office  
of Environment and  
Heritage



**Craig Davies**  
Mayor Narramine  
Shire



**Digby Jacobs**  
Team Leader  
River Works and  
Management,  
NSW Department of  
Primary Industries -  
Water



**David Legge**  
Master of  
Ceremonies



## 72nd Annual General Meeting & National Conference

# Guest speakers

### **Mark Coulton MP** **Federal Member Parkes**

Mark was first elected to the House of Representatives seat of Parkes in 2007. This electorate covers 393,413 square kilometres, encompassing 30pc of the Murray Darling Basin catchment area, including almost all of the Murray Darling Association's Region 10. As the Federal Member for Parkes, Mark represents communities with economies based on agriculture and mining, while also representing one of the nation's largest Aboriginal populations. In August 2016, Mark was elected Deputy Speaker House of Representatives. Mark served as Mayor Gwydir Shire Council 2004-07. Prior to entering Parliament, Mark spent 30 years as a farmer and grazier.

### **Andrew Sherman** **Russell Kennedy Lawyers**

Andrew is a Principal at leading law firm Russell Kennedy Lawyers. Andrew is a Law Institute Environment, Planning & Local Government Law accredited specialist, and has particular skills in Water Law. Russell Kennedy Lawyers and the Murray Darling Association are proud of their long association. Andrew has worked closely with the MDA on the redraft of the Constitution. His expertise, commitment and knowledge of both water and local government ensure the proposed draft retains founding intent while establishing clear and compliant guidelines for the MDA's future.

### **Neil Andrew** **Chair Murray Darling Basin Authority**

A South Australian irrigator, former federal politician and Speaker of the House, Neil Andrew was in January 2015 appointed the new Chair Murray-Darling Basin Authority for a four-year term. For 20 years, Neil was the Liberal member for Wakefield. He has acknowledged that the role managing Australia's most valuable resource, water is a challenge, and he has spent much of the last 20 months travelling the Basin engaging with communities and stakeholders. Neil is committed to achieving balance in the implementation of the Basin Plan.

### **Ken Rogers** **Dubbo Regional Council Director Corporate Development**

Ken was instrumental as Chairman of Region 10 in engaging the Northern Basin. Ken served as National President MDA 2009-13. Perhaps Ken's greatest legacy has been his visionary recognition of the need for the MDA to embrace and manage change in order to stay strong, relevant and future focused. In February 2014 Ken presented to the board a comprehensive proposal for organisational change. A life member, it is fitting that here in Dubbo the MDA proposes its new constitution to the membership, an exciting segue between our long and proud history and a strong and purposeful future.

### **Michael Kneipp** **Administrator Dubbo Regional Council**

Michael was appointed Administrator by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to steer the Dubbo Regional Council through the dynamic process of amalgamation following the merger of Dubbo and Wellington Councils earlier this year. Raised on a farm in northern NSW, before moving to a career consulting and supporting pioneer cooperative learning programs between the business sector and education. Michael previously held the role of executive director Crown Lands based in Dubbo, where he was responsible for significant reform to the Crown Lands department, "unlocking years of bureaucratic backlog and community frustration" according to the Deputy Premier.

### **David Thurley** **National President MDA Chairman R1 Deputy Mayor Albury City Council**

David is also an accomplished scientist, astronomer and futurist. In the early 1970s, David worked with Australian Newsprint Mills, where he was responsible for developing processes to treat industrial waste water to a sufficient quality to maintain or improve the health of the river system on its re-entry. David's achievements and expertise in the treatment of waste water saw him work for companies around the world, helping them to improve their water recycling. David is also a volunteer educator, delivering fun and creative science classes to students in schools in the Albury Wodonga area.

### **Emma Bradbury** **Chief Executive Officer MDA**

Emma was appointed CEO Murray Darling Association May 2014. With almost 15 years as founding director and business manager chain of industrial maintenance and engineering businesses servicing the Queensland mining sector, Emma sold the businesses in 2006, and moved to Victoria where she owned and operated an irrigated mixed farming enterprise in Torrumbarry. Emma served as a councillor with the Shire of Campaspe 2012-16, and has broad experience in governance and strategic development.

### **Phillip Glyde** **Chief Executive Murray Darling Basin Authority**

Former head of the national commodity forecaster ABARE, with a background in natural resource management, Phillip Glyde was acting secretary of the Agriculture Department before taking on the role of CEO Murray Darling Basin Authority in 2016. Phillip came to the role with a record of achievement in natural resource management, economics and involvement in complex state and Commonwealth issues. He has led important policy reforms in the areas of live animal exports, drought management and agricultural policy.





**Mike Sutherland****Alkane Resources Ltd General Manager NSW**

Michael works primarily on the Dubbo Zirconia Project. He also works across Alkane's other projects from Crookwell to Tomingley and Wellington. He started his professional life as a geologist in South Africa but has lived and worked in the Central West most of his life. He spent 17 years as a farmer and 23 years in mining, six years overlapping. Mike has been heavily involved in natural resource management including cultural heritage since the early 80s through community leadership roles and local, state and national levels. He is passionate about the role mining can play in building resilience in regional communities through employment and training.

**Debbie Love****Senior Wetlands and Rivers Conservation Officer  
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage**

Debbie has a hands-on perspective of the role water plays in securing outcomes for river and wetland health and supporting resilient waterbird and native fish communities, as well as rural communities. Prior to taking up the role of environmental water manager, Debbie worked in the NSW government's Department of Water Resources, then Department of Land and Water Conservation. Debbie has mainly been based in Dubbo and has worked on many of the inland river catchments over a period of 24 years.

**Ashley Bland****Senior Manager Skillset**

Ashley comes from a commercial organic farming background. He has worked with conservation volunteers in a corporate and government affairs role before his current position with Skillset as Senior Manager - Environment. Ashley has played a leading role in developing the Flannery Centre, a \$8.5 million training facility. Ashley has one unshakable realisation: that people are both the source and the key to our sustainability challenges. Ashley is a skilled and articulate facilitator, and will guide a lively hypothetical discussion with our expert panel exploring important and exciting challenges and opportunities facing our governments and the Basin community.

**Digby Jacobs****Team Leader River Works and Management  
NSW Department of Primary Industries - Water**

Digby has 20-plus years in the NSW government water sector. He has been involved with the regulatory change and evolution of water sharing plans, plus inter-government liaison in the management of water resources and water management infrastructure. Digby also works with communities to achieve a balance between both the extractive and environmental use of water.

**Mick Callan****Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance**

Mick is Project Support Officer for Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance where he works to develop, implement and review environmental projects, as well as organising capacity building events. Mick has previously worked in Local Government as Environmental Programs Coordinator with Bathurst Regional Council and has a history of implementing award-winning environmental projects including Racing to Save the Mount Panorama Woodlands and Protecting and Connecting Bathurst Copper Butterfly Habitat.

**Darren Ah See****Chief Executive Officer Wellington Aboriginal  
Corporation Health Services**

Darren was born and raised in Wellington and is part of the Wiradjuri nation, which covers a large part of central NSW. He has an extensive employment record in Local Government, Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Greater Western Area Health Service. Darren is currently Chief Executive Officer Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service, where he has been employed since 2003. Throughout his employment and personal life, Darren has developed a number of core skills and values which have complemented his professional development and learning.

**Craig Davies****Mayor Narromine Shire**

Craig was elected councillor 2012. He has been involved in agriculture and irrigation all his life. Craig has been an active member of delegations to MDBA, NSW Minister for Water and the Deputy Premier to bring their attention to the anomalies within the MDBA Plan affecting the Macquarie River. Craig is also member Narromine Shire Economic Development Group and chairman Trangie Community Connection and various other groups in his community.

**David Legge****Master of Ceremonies**

David is an experienced and entertaining corporate MC conducting national conferences for the Murray Darling Association, BP, Telstra, HP, BMW, National Foods, Australian Grand Prix, plus many more. For the last eight years, David has been involved with the St Kilda Football Club, in the capacity of coterie room MC, and for 2 years, was the on-ground MC for all home games at Etihad Stadium. David is one of Australia's leading voice actors, having worked in the industry since 1984.



## *Our valued sponsors and partner organisations*



### **Murray Darling Basin Authority**

The MDA and MDBA are proud of an alliance that has spanned many years and that seeks to maximise our collective energies, engagement and influence for the overall benefit of the Murray-Darling Basin and the communities dependent on the Basin's resources. Our relationship is one of respect and at times about collaboration.

The MDA is of the view that the measure of the MDBA's success is in the wellbeing of our Basin communities, our industries, our natural and our build environments. We are committed to supporting the MDBA to recognise and achieve that measure of success through the implementation of the Basin Plan.

We have always appreciated is the generosity with which the Authority supports the MDA's projects and events and we thank them today.



### **Russell Kennedy Lawyers**

Russell Kennedy again features prominently in the just-released 2017 Best Lawyers in Australia awards and rankings. The Murray Darling Association thanks Russell Kennedy Lawyers for their support in reviewing the Association's Constitution and looks forward to continuing our long association.



### **Dubbo Regional Council**

Dubbo Regional Council was Proclaimed by the Governor of NSW on September 7 this year as the name for the Council formed by the merger of the former Dubbo City and Wellington councils. Dubbo Regional Council will be a very different organisation to either of the two previous Councils. The new council takes in more than 51,000 people in the LGA with some 42,000 people living in Dubbo, another 9,000 in Wellington and a broad rural sector stretching across 7,500 square kilometres. Dubbo Regional Council aims to be a modern, progressive organisation. Council has worked incredibly hard, under the expert guidance of Administrator Michael Kniepp to ensure a seamless transition across the merger process, ensuring an inclusive environment for all communities. With the Proclamation of the name Dubbo Regional Council allows Council to move ahead with significant projects which will improve communication with residents and ratepayers and give Council a new identity.



### **The Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance**

The Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance is an active partnership of 18 Councils across the Central West of NSW working towards positive environmental outcomes throughout our region. The Alliance is supported by both Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services as their primary means of engagement with Local Government.

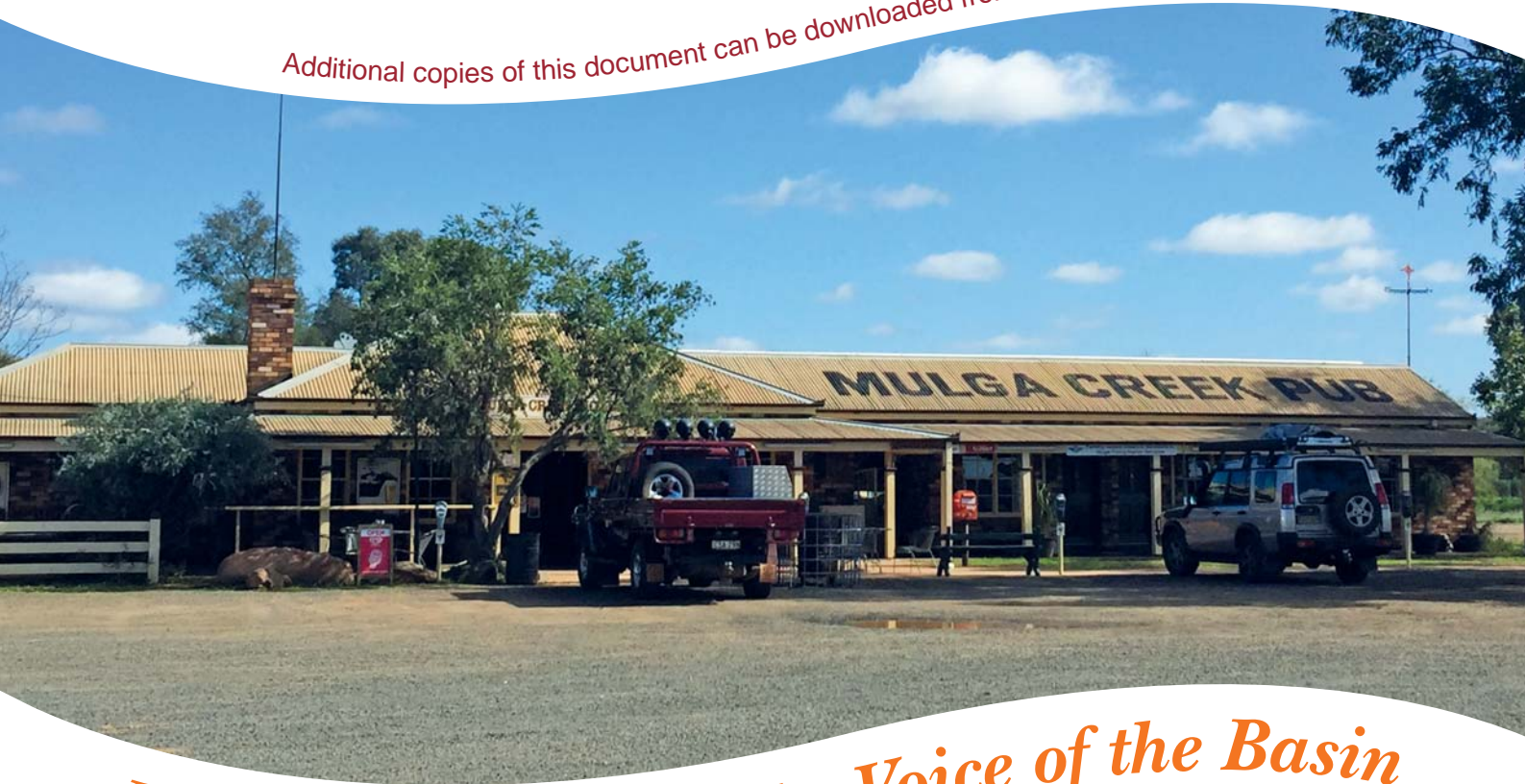
We are proud to support the Murray Darling Association Conference 2017 and to collaborating into the future to deliver environmental outcomes for our communities.



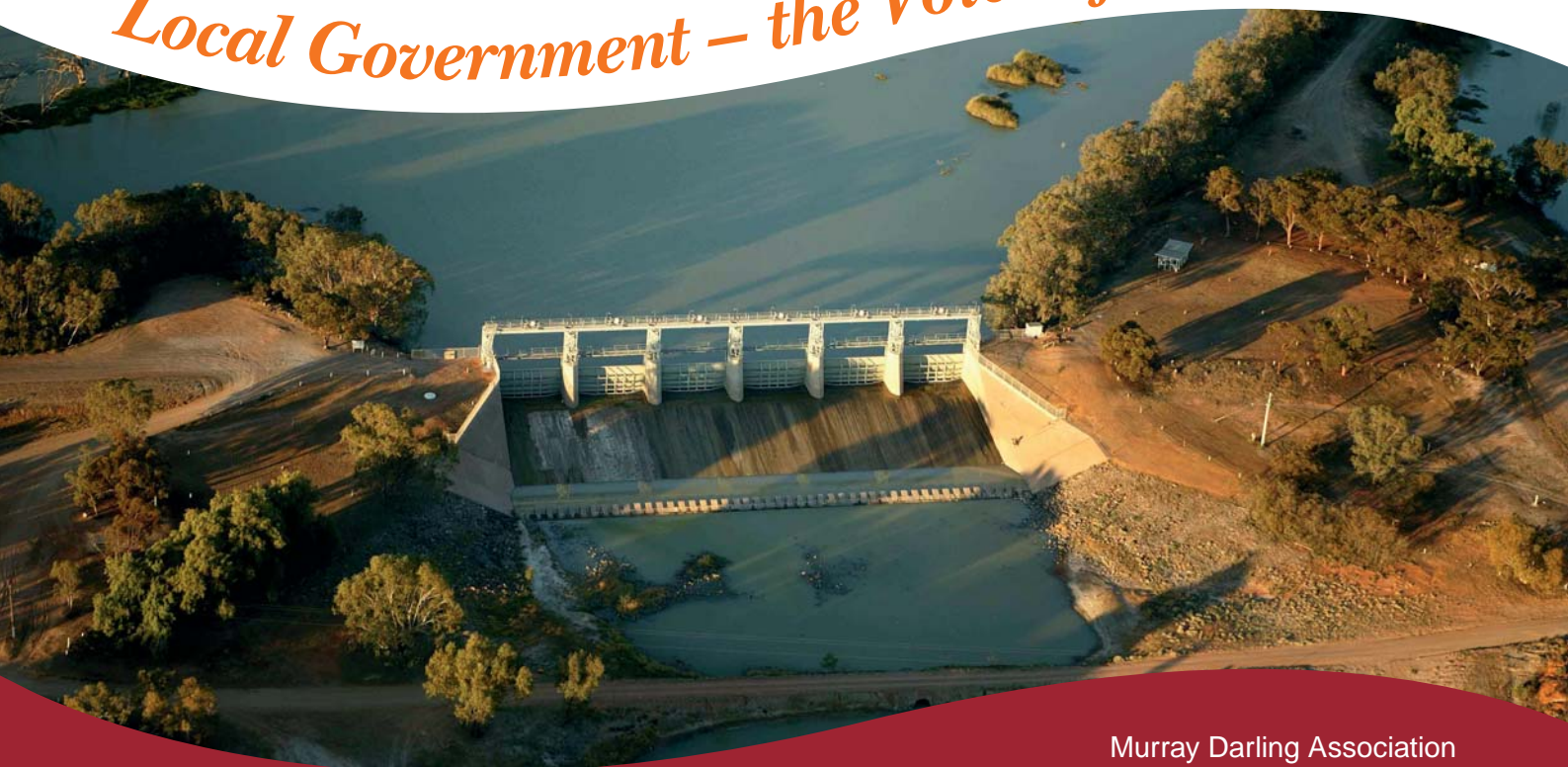
Please visit [mda.asn.au](http://mda.asn.au) for registration and accommodation options



Additional copies of this document can be downloaded from [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)



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