



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au Email: admin@mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Minutes of Meeting No. 91 of REGION 7 (GREATER ADELAIDE) On Thursday 24th July 2014 at Port Adelaide Enfield Council Chambers, Nile St, Port Adelaide

Present: Cr Peter Jamieson (Chair, Pt Adelaide Enfield), Mayor Gary Johanson of Pt Adelaide Enfield, Deputy Chair Pauline Frost, Secretary Raelene Telfer, Cr Rex Adams (Walkerville), Cr Denis Davey (Playford), Cr Lynda Yates (Minute Secretary, Holdfast Bay), Cr John Kennedy (Campbelltown), Cr Frank Verrall (Marion), Glenn Ricketts (Marion Water Resources Coordinator) Murray Bartsch, Gary Goland, Vicky Veliskou

Apologies: Cr Arthur Mangos (Deputy Chair, West Torrens), Garth Palmer (West Torrens), John Kennedy (Campbelltown), Irene Whennan

Welcome Mayor Gary Johanson said that keeping the 380 parks and 43 sporting ovals of PAE green was important to the Council. PAE has an area of 90 sq km. The Council had hoped to be able to get a pipeline from the Glenelg Treatment Works to bring the area treated water but it did not come that far. Water consumption in 2005 was 1.1m KL but this reduced to 600,000 KL in the drought with Level 3 water restrictions and has remained lower even since their relaxation. There are plans to pipe water to 8 major open spaces. A population of 126,000 and also many businesses in PAE must be provided with water that is safe, even if it is recycled for non-potable use. Water passes through PAE from the other northwest suburbs to reach the wetlands and then into the Port River. PAE was formed in 1996 and has been involved with the Murray Darling Association since then so the Mayor was happy to welcome MDA to its premises to hold their AGM.

“Local Water-Saving Initiatives in Port Adelaide Enfield”

Verity Saunders, an Environmental Staff member of PAE

PAE was an early starter in energy and water efficiency: from 1998. The Council developed the initial energy and water efficiency projects via the Cities for Climate Protection Board funding. The most recent plan is the Energy and Water Efficiency Plan 2012-15. The Green Team focuses on water efficiency and a key objective is to reduce greenhouse emissions by 25% by 2014-15 and water conservation by 20% compared to 2008-9 levels, thus improving Council's carbon and water footprint. This will also generate cost savings.

Water savings and use of water from sources other than piped eg. recycled, have led to reduced piped water usage although as the cost has risen the financial savings have been minimal but would have been much higher otherwise today. Council works with the NRM Board and other agencies to manage groundwater. Council produces their own 'Inland Waters' state of the environment report every 3 years. The Council area is 100km and contains both minor and major catchments receiving water from the Adelaide metropolitan area which is discharged to the ocean or into the major watercourses. A lot of water comes from Charles Sturt and Prospect. The Barker Inlet Wetlands has been a big project to take and purify this water.

Adapt_West 2014 is a project with Charles Sturt and West Torrens Councils to formulate a plan for dealing with climate change. Projections for annual rainfall are as follows:

Site	1960-99 Rainfall (mm)	2030 high emissions 10 th percentile	2030 low emissions 90 th percentile	2070 high emissions 10 th percentile	2070 low emissions 90 th percentile
Adelaide airport	451	301	450	294	475
Saltworks	441	383	440	287	455
North Adelaide	513	445	521	334	539
Pooraka	455	403	473	303	490
Seaton	466	404	474	302	401

There are many low-lying areas in PAE. A 1-in-a hundred year flood means each year there is a likelihood of such a flood occurring. With climate change, it is projected that the number of extreme events will increase. Therefore, flood prevention becomes more important.

500 registered groundwater bores occur in PAE and many more unregistered could exist. Most are small household bores but businesses like Coopers and Penrice use a lot of borewater.

PAE uses aquifer recharge and recovery to re-inject water to the aquifer so as to maintain levels and, as it also treats the water first, to help maintain its quality. Northgate was one of the first such projects in Australia and there is now the Barker Inlet project as well.

Water pollution is also the only part of the Environment Protection Act to be enforced by the Council due to involvement with some business in the past.

“An Update on SA Water”

Steve Kotz, Manager of Metropolitan Water Security, SA Water

SA Water is over 150 years old as a corporation, being established as the Waterworks and Drainage Commission in 1856. The population of SA is now 1.557 million. The volume of water delivered in 2011/12 was 208,144 ML. 60GL water is now from the desalination plant – 28.1% of the total. Water from the River Murray is 36.2% and surface water from the Adelaide Hills is 30.1%.

The Water Industry Act 2012 gave ESCOSA powers to regulate the water industry by 1/1/2013 under the Water Retail Licence and to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework. ESCOSA must protect the long-term interests of SA consumers re price, quality etc.

SA Water must also maintain 26,674km of water mains, 8,767km of sewer mains and 186km of recycled water mains.

Adelaide Hills water is the cheapest water source, River Murray water is next and desalinated water is the most expensive. In 2008, a small desalination plant was commissioned and a large one in 2012 as it is a climate-independent source of water.

The southern reservoirs are separated from the northern ones. The condition of the raw water in reservoirs in Melbourne is 90% pristine and 80% in Sydney. This is because the water is retained a long time in these reservoirs, 5 years on average in Sydney, and there is a lot of native vegetation near the reservoirs and few people. In comparison, Adelaide reservoirs are only 10% pristine as the water stays only an average of only 12 months in the reservoirs and there is less vegetation and more people in the vicinity of the reservoirs. Reservoirs must be aerated so that cold and warm water are turned over so as to decrease algae growth on the surface. In Jan 2010 the Murray Bridge off-take reduced the occurrence of blue-green algae in the Murray. At the Darling and Murray confluence, the Darling is very high in sediment so looks brown whereas the Murray looks clean.

Water treatment :

Preliminary treatment → Coagulation → Flocculation → Sedimentation → Filtration → Stabilisation → Disinfection

In 2008, a small desalination plant was commissioned and a large one in 2012 as it is a climate-independent source of water. Rainfall in the eastern states has decreased while more rain falls now in Western Australia. There is a 70% chance of an EL Nino developing this year which would lead to hotter dryer weather. In 90 days in 2012-13, 123 records were broken because it was so hot. South Australia needs 200GL annually, 60% from natural catchments and 30% from the River Murray. The 100GL desalination plant has cost \$1.824 billion. There is now a North-South Interconnection Project (NSISP) which will cost \$403 million. It aims to interconnect water around Adelaide. It has avoided disrupting the water supply whilst installing 32km pipework, 3 pump stations and 5 valve stations in over 150 locations. See the SA Water website for further details and the annual report. The current levels of the reservoirs is good. ANSLD – Australian National Standards on Large Dams. There is a current project to supply water to the Eyre Peninsula via the Iron Knob – Kimba pipeline.

Questions sent in by MDA members :

Water security? Changes in the policy since the drought mean there is now a Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder who currently has 1700GL to allocate from sleeper licences. 204GL are available for critical human needs.

Hume and Dartmouth Dams water supply? Not well tracked. 42GL comes from the River Murray. 60GL from the desalination plant at present.

Water charges? In 2014 water cost \$2.32 per KL at Tier 1 rate and is maintained at CPI. Tier 2 water costs \$3.32 and Tier 3 \$3.59.

Contamination of groundwater at Clovelly Park? Water in water pipes is kept at a very high pressure so as to stop contaminants getting in and therefore there is no danger that piped water will be affected.

AGM

The Chairman, Cr Peter Jamieson, opened the formal part of the meeting.

MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting held at Playford on 15th May 2014 were confirmed (Arthur Mangos moved, Pauline Frost seconded, carried).

Report from the Chairperson of Region 7, Peter Jamieson

Peter thanked the Region 7 supporters and the speakers at all the meetings. The 2013 AGM was held at the Goolwa Conference and was a success even though not many attended the meeting. It was a good idea to hold it at the Conference, it was just that many people were too tired to attend after the Conference sessions. Thanks to Ray Najjar for all his work. Emma Bradbury is now General Manager of the MDA but the Adelaide Office has moved to Echuca so will not normally attend R7 meetings. The Queensland office has closed after 1 year as it was not getting the required traction and there was not enough money to fund it, but it is a lost opportunity. The July 16th Region 5 meeting had a speaker on coal seam gas and this is still an important subject as many people do not want fracking on their land.

MINUTES The minutes of the last AGM held at Goolwa on 10^h Oct 2013 were confirmed (Cr Dennis Davey moved, Raelene Telfer seconded, carried).

Rex Adams assumed the Chair for election of Officers for Greater Adelaide Region 7 of the Murray Darling Association. The following office holders were unanimously carried :

- a. Chairperson Peter Jamieson (Pauline Frost moved, Raelene Telfer seconded)
- b. Deputy Chairperson Arthur Mangos (Pauline Frost moved, Peter Jamieson seconded)
- c. Deputy Chairperson Pauline Frost (Peter Jamieson moved, Cr Frank Verrall seconded)
- d. Secretary Murray Bartsch (Raelene Telfer moved, Pauline Frost seconded)
- e. Minute Secretary Lynda Yates (Cr Dennis Davey moved, Raelene Telfer seconded)

Peter Jamieson resumed the Chair.

Murray Darling Foundation - Tax deductible donations are being received from members to purchase water licences for future investment for the Foundation. Other projects include the Save the Murray and Save the Darling Websites that you can be freely accessed by students for projects related to the Murray Darling Association.

Business Arising from the Minutes and Other Business

A query was made about membership renewal and Peter replied that requests for the new year's subscriptions would be coming out shortly.

Don Levitt's funeral was held 23rd July. He had been Deputy Mayor as well as a Councillor for City of Playford. Cr Davey spoke about how much he had done for the Council and his interest in the environment.

Motion for the National AGM:

Region 7 invites discussion about incentives to encourage new councils to join the MDA.
Moved Rex Adams, seconded Cr Dennis Davey, carried.

NEXT MEETINGS 2014

**Oct 14th – Oct 17th 70th National Conference and Association Annual General Meeting
in Snowy Mountains**

**Thursday 20th November 6.30pm for 7 pm at Holdfast Bay, Hon Mark Butler on Murray
Darling Basin policy**

Minute Secretary Lynda Yates lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au ; Mob 0417 484 717