



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Region 7 (Adelaide Metro) Ordinary Meeting No. 102

Date: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017, Time: 6pm for 6.30pm

Location: Walkerville Council

Address: Walkerville Community and Civic Centre,  
66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton 5081

### AGENDA

Refreshments will be available from 6pm. Meeting commences at 6.30pm.

1. **ATTENDANCE**
  - 1.1 Present:
  - 1.2 Apologies:
2. **WELCOME**
  - 2.1 Mayor of Walkerville, Ray Grigg
  - 2.2 Cr David Shetliffe, Chair, Region 7
3. **MINUTES**
  - 3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 June at Mitcham Council.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
5. **PRESENTATION**
  - 5.1 Presentation by Mr Nathan Silby, Director, Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec – ERA Water
  - 5.2 Presentation on proposed Carp Eradication Program by
6. **REPORTS**
  - 6.1 Report from Chair of Region 7, Cr David Shetliffe
7. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

(Reports attached)

  - 7.1 MDA Conference 11-13 October 2017 at Renmark
  - 7.2 MDA AGM – proposed motion from Region 7 regarding system auditing
  - 7.3 Regional Plan Framework update
  - 7.4 SA Regional forum with LGA – 20 September
  - 7.5 Other business

**8. NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 23 November 2017

Thursday 22 February 2018

Thursday 24 May 2018

Thursday 23 August 2018

**9. CLOSE**

**Secretary Lynda Yates [lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au) ; Mob 0417 484 717**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
Walkerville Council for their support in  
hosting this meeting of Region 7.*

## **6.1 Report from Region 7 Chair**

Since our last meeting I have attended two meetings of the board. A brief summary of matters discussed is set out below. Once approved by the board, minutes are available on the MDA web site.

The idea of changing the name to the Murray Darling LGA is not being progressed. However, there is to be ongoing discussion to identify some other way of expressing the MDA's strong link to local government.

Additional resourcing of the MDA office is imminent and this should assist the capacity of the office to support members and regions. Similarly, the restructuring of the financial management is starting to produce better and more complete reporting.

At our last meeting Councilor Yates raised an issue about councils taking out private membership for an elected member rather than retain council membership. The Board will be seeking an amendment to the constitution to address this matter. It was also resolved that, in the interim, the Board will reject any application for membership from a serving councilor.

Work is underway to improve the MDA's membership data base, which clearly has not been as good as it needs to be. This work includes acquiring new software.

The MDA is actively seeking representation at Ministerial council level in an advisory capacity and on the Basin Officials Committee in a contributory capacity in order to provide more direct local content in the decisions relating to the Murray Darling Basin.

The Murray Darling hit the headlines after a Four Corners program aired allegations of using unallocated water by some cotton growers on the Barwon River in northern NSW together with allegations of possible corruption within the NSW Governments. This has produced calls for independent inquiries into these allegations. The MDA has made a similar call. It is not for me to comment on this, but it will be interesting to see what comes out of whatever inquiries finish up being conducted. Hopefully this will result in improved compliance regimes being put in place – firstly by State Governments and then, when the Basin Plan is implemented in 2019, by the MDBA. The proposed motion to the MDA AGM by Councilor Mangos included in this agenda goes to this point.

Finally, on the national front, the financial results for the year to 30 June show a healthy position. The surplus is \$20,926 against a budget of \$19,224. The cash position has improved by around \$20,000. These figures are still subject to Audit.

At the local level I have met with the following:

Stephen Smith, LGA SA

Steven Gatti, Manager Water Projects, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Steven Morton, Manager Urban Water, Economics and Water Security, DEWNR

Melissa Bradley, Program Manager, Water Sensitive SA

Neil Andrew, Chair, MDBA

These meetings have been primarily aimed at trying to obtain a clear picture of Adelaide's water supply along the following lines:

- How much of Adelaide's supply comes from the Murray?
- What does this represent as a proportion of all water extracted from the Murray Darling system?
- What happens to Adelaide's allocation in times of low water flow?
- How much water is available (and used) from other sources of water, including storm water recharge, reused waste water, the desalination plant and the reservoirs in the Mt Lofty ranges?

Clearly the answers to these questions vary according to the season. But it is extraordinary how hard it is to get clear answers.

Nevertheless, it turns out that the Goyder Institute, (researchers from some of our universities) have done excellent work on stormwater recharge schemes and, through Melissa Bradley, have provided the results of their work which we can now use.

Steven Morton and the MDBA will be providing additional data shortly.

The emerging picture is interesting and we should be able to use the figures as part of our narrative about Adelaide's impact on the Murray and the investment made in Adelaide to reduce this impact.

Cr David Shetliffe  
Chair, Adelaide Metro Region

## **7.1 MDA Conference 11-13 October 2017 at Renmark**

The conference program is now finalized and details are available on the MDA Web site at: <http://www.mda.asn.au/major-events/2017-national-conference-agm.aspx>

Members are encouraged to attend and invite other potential stakeholders to attend also. Attendance is not restricted to members – although obviously non-members cannot vote at the AGM.

If a private member wishes to vote at the AGM, they need to be elected at this meeting as a region delegate.

Elected members of member councils are eligible to vote. The number of delegates from a member council can be two or three depending on the population of the council area.

## **7.2 Proposed Motion from Region 7**

A motion can be put to the AGM by a region, a member council or any other member. Councillor Arthur Mangos of West Torrens Council has asked that Region 7 put forward the following motion:

**“That the MDA calls on all state governments currently responsible for compliance with water allocations to ensure that the compliance regime be subject to independent audit.**

**That the MDBA ensure that its compliance system, when introduced in 2019, is well resourced, robust and subject to independent audit”.**

Councillor Mangos first suggested a similar motion to this following the Region 7 meeting in June. It was clear from the reaction of those present to a comment by Di Meade of the MDBA about compliance that there were concerns about the effectiveness of compliance across the Basin. Thus Councillor Mangos called for audits of water allocations.

However, following the Four Corners report about compliance on the Bowen River, the chair suggested that the concept of an independent audit process was needed to ensure public confidence in the system – just as occurs with independent financial audits of councils, governments and private corporations. Councillor Mangos agreed with this change.

Recommendation: That the above motion be put to the forthcoming AGM of the MDA.

### **7.3 Regional Plan Update**

The Chair's report at item 6.1 above outlines progress being made in relation to the sources of Adelaide's water supply. It is possible that some meaningful information may be available by the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

In trying to more clearly articulate what it appears Region 7 has been doing over recent years, a draft strategic outline has been prepared as follows:

1. Encourage investment in water saving measures across Adelaide
2. Exchange information about water saving measures
3. Encourage efficiency in water use
4. Understand the water supply system and water sources across Adelaide
5. Share information about water saving and efficiency across the Murray Darling Basin
6. Publicly inform communities across the Basin of Adelaide's water supply system
7. Promote efficient use of water across the Basin
8. Seek to ensure adequate compliance and audit measures are in place
9. Promote understanding of water uses and environmental issues across Adelaide and the wider Basin
10. Promote the role of local government in being an integral part of water management across the basin

This reflects a view of expanding issues to be addressed – from more local to basin wide. If this outline is accepted by members, then it presents a framework for the regions ongoing work and gives clear purpose to discussions at regional meetings.

Member comments are welcome.

### **7.4 SA Regions Meeting 20 September**

The LGA Sa has invited the MDA regions based in South Australia to a forum at LGA House on 20 September 2017 from 9am to 3pm.

This is a similar meeting to one held last year which was successful.

However, members need to note this is an LGA meeting, not an MDA meeting and, whilst proposed motions to the AGM will be on the agenda, there will be no voting or decision making involved. The discussion, like the rest of the meeting, will be about information sharing – about regional and basin wide issues. It is understood that the Chair of the MDBA will be attending.

Last year numbers were restricted to 5 per region. This year the LGA is allowing some flexibility, but clearly numbers need to be limited. The LGA has also asked that preference be given to elected member representatives as this is an LGA meeting.

The meeting needs to decide on who will be attending so the LGA can be advised.