



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 9 Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

Location: Leeton Shire Council Chambers
23-25 Chelmsford Place Leeton NSW 2705
Date/time: 23 March - 9.30am for 10.00am commencement
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/301187730>

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

Mayor Paul Maytom – Leeton Shire Council
GM Jackie Kruger – Leeton Shire Council
CEO Emma Bradbury – MDA (zoom link)
Cr Ruth McRae – Murrumbidgee Council (zoom link)
GM John Scarce – Murrumbidgee Council (zoom link)
Bede Spannagle – RWCC (zoom link)
Cr Tammy Galvin – Narrandera Shire Council
Shane Wilson – Narrandera Shire Council
Cr Dino Zappacosta – Griffith City Council (zoom link)
Mayor John Dal Broi – Griffith City Council (zoom link)
Cr Russell Campbell – Carrathool Shire Council (zoom link)
Joe Burns – private member
Tracie Scarfone – Water NSW
EA Melissa Seymour – Leeton Shire Council

2.1 Apologies:

Cr Dino Zappacosta – Griffith City Council
Cr Russell Campbell – Carrathool Shire Council
GM John Scarce – Murrumbidgee Council

2. WELCOME

2.1 Chair Region 9

Chair Paul Maytom welcomed all attendees to the meeting and expressed concern about the unusual time and circumstances that we as region are all going through and the uncertainty of COVID-19.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1 Nil declarations

4. MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting – 29 August 2019

Moved by Cr John Dal Broi and second by Joe Burns

5. CEO's REPORT

5.1 CEO's reports [online](#)

CEO Emma Bradbury spoke about MDA's approach to business continuity plan for Covid-19 and the importance of service and employment. Emma advised there will be disruptions to future planned events, particularly the national conference and leadership workshop. The conference is likely to be deferred to a new date and will be discussed further at the next MDA board meeting.

CEO's report was noted.

5.2 MDA Board Meeting (No. 395) Minutes

Minutes noted.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA Strategic Workshop 2020 Update [Strategic Workshop](#)

Chair Paul Maytom and Bede Spannagle noted that the Strategic Planning workshop was a very valuable session. MDA will align with NSW. Workshop focused on being a very successful local government center for excellence, development of membership and development of products and future performance report for basin agencies.

6.2 Succession Planning for Region 9

Chair Paul Maytom advised that he will stand down as delegate and Chair of Region 9 and encouraged other delegates in the region to stand. He confirmed he will continue to be an active member of MDA. Acknowledged former MDA CEO Ray Njarr whom he worked with extensively. Also acknowledged current CEO Emma Bradbury for her very valuable contribution and the current team at MDA and thanked them for their support. MDA now have better connections with the Government and commented MDA is in a good position. MDA is an effective overarching body and it is valuable to know what is happening in the other regions. MDA work in a way to make our basin a better place. Emma Bradbury confirmed a strong and structured handover in Region 9 will need to occur. Emma advised what an incoming Chair needs to consider:

- With Covid-19 will be changes, organisations like ours are in a position to assist Governments.
- Strong board and clear director at Regional level
- Nomination of the chair to have support of council via resolution
- Information sharing support is available to chair from MDA, delegate to be experienced in local representation at a government level.

Emma has meet with Jerilderie and will meet with Griffith to look at who may be best placed to take up role.

Zoom link is a benefit moving forward and should be considered by member councils.

Emma Bradbury left meeting at 10.28am

- 6.3 **Yanco Creek** – Cr Ruth McCrae advised progress is limited as Water NSW are not coming to the party with DPIE. A site visit recently occurred at Yanco Creek. Ruth also provided an update on the meeting last week on 12th March 2020, with a list of proposed ideas brought forward. The advisory group to be reduced to 12 people, there will be a name change to a ‘stakeholders group’. Overall there is frustration in the whole process, inaction and lack of transparency. Public engagement is crucial, and we need some confidence that we are at the table. Committee will be provided with a draft by mid to late April.

Jackie Kruger who also attended the meeting on the 12th March 2020 and advised the ‘stakeholders’ group’ will incorporate Indigenous Australians and chair of the group will come from the Government.

7. PRESENTATION

- 7.1 Tracie Scarfone Water NSW presented on Ground Water Access and Licensing

See attachment A

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Next Meeting: 26 June 2020 – AGM and Ordinary Meeting

9. **CLOSE** – Meeting closed at 11.47am

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Leeton Shire Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 9.