



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: 2 December 2020 - 10.00am commencement

1. Attendance

1.1 Present

Mayor Paul Maytom – Leeton Shire Council (Chairman)
Emma Bradbury – CEO MDA
Cr Jenny Clarke- Narrandera Shire Council
Mayor Greg Conkey – Wagga Wagga City Council
Vince Kelly – Senior Regional Water Strategy Officer, Water NSW (part)
Jackie Kruger – General Manager, Leeton Shire Council
Mandy Rogers – Leeton Shire Council (Secretary)
Mayor Ruth McRae – Murrumbidgee Council
John Scarce – General Manager - Murrumbidgee Council
Joe Burns – Private Member
Bede Spannangle - Riverina Water County Council
Brett Stonestreet - Griffith City Council
Share Wilson – Acting General Manager, Narrandera Shire Council
Matt Woodward – Senior Engagement Officer, MDBA

1.2 Apologies

Mayor Ruth McRae – Murrumbidgee Council
Mayor John Dal Broi - Griffith City Council

2. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting both in person and via videolink.

3. Acknowledgement of Country

4. Presentation – Regional Water Strategies

Vince Kelly – Senior Regional Water Strategy Officer Water NSW attended the Meeting and presented the document titled “WaterNSW Operations Update - Murrumbidgee Valley - ROSCCo November 2020”, which had been provided to attendees prior to the Meeting.

The presentation covered the following key topics:

- Dam storage levels
- Rainfall, temperatures and resultant inflows
- Climatic outlook and impact on future inflows
- Storage and water allocation forecasts
- Murrumbidgee Resource Distribution and Water Availability as at 16 November 2020
- Inter Valley Transfer (IVT) Account
- River Transmission Loss, including specific information on Yanco Creek
- End of System Flow Targets for specific locations
- Operation Loss
- System Outage Plan

Vince Kelly left the meeting.

5. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 were taken as read and accepted.

7. CEO's Report

It was noted that the CEO's Reports for August and October 2020 are at:

<https://www.mda.asn.au/about-us/ceo-s-reports.aspx>. The Reports were taken as read and noted.

The CEO provided a verbal update as the December 2020 CEO Report was not available at the time of the meeting. The following points were covered by the CEO:-

- The executive have implemented a new consultation and engagement framework, which is now the standard for MDA consultation.
- An overview of the CEO's consultation visit to the Western NSW regions.
- The CEO and MDA Chair had met with various Ministers and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in Canberra to progress resolutions from the MDA Conference and AGM and other objectives of the MDA (including the name change).
- Consultation will be taking place with the Bureau of Meteorology regarding the development of an “app” for water information.
- With regard to the NSW Water Infrastructure Options Study, it is important that there is consistency of infrastructure programs, including that of the National Water Infrastructure Authority and the CEO will be progressing discussions on this matter.

- The RAMJO Water Security Position Statement, and the approach taken, as presented at the MDA Conference, has been well received by the MDBA and represents a good example of what can be achieved by a Joint Organisation.
- The Relationship Agreement between the MDA and the CSIRO has now been signed.
- A strategic planning workshop for the MDA is being planned for late February or early March 2021.

8. Name Change

The Change of Name Briefing Paper and Frequently Asked Questions document was taken as read and considered. The CEO provided a verbal update and it was noted that:-

- That there has been some resistance from Metropolitan Councils to the proposal.
- It is up to each Council to determine their own decision-making process in relation to the proposal.

9. MDA Board Meeting Minutes

It was noted that the MDA Board Meeting Minutes for August and October 2020 (no's 401 and 403) are at: <https://www.mda.asn.au/agendas-minutes.aspx>. The minutes were taken as read and noted.

10. General Business

Lake Coolah/Mejum

The Chairman provided an overview of the Lake Coolah/Mejum water storage proposal and advised that he had been approached by David Farley regarding MDA support for the proposal. It was noted that David Farley is also seeking the support of the MDBA.

Agreed that the CEO would review the status of the proposal with the MDBA with a view to ascertaining if the MDA should commit resources to supporting the proposal.

Region 9 Climate Ready Statement

The paper titled "Region 9 Climate Ready Statement" being a covering memo and the updated Region 9 Climate Ready Statement was taken as read and considered.

Agreed to formally endorse the Region 9 Climate Ready Statement and to request Leeton Shire Council to advise the MDA executive that the Statement has been formally endorsed by Region 9.

Chairman's comments

In closing the Chairman:-

- Noted that the presentation from Vince Kelly had been very informative and it is important that the information is provided to the wider community.
- Thanked M Seymour and M Rogers for their secretariat support for Region 9 during 2020.
- Wished Region 9 a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

11. Close and Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 17 February December 2021.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.