



**MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION
REGION 10
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND MEETING**

**Dubbo City Council
Friday, 19 August 2011**

Meeting commenced at 10:00am

1. Attendance:

Ken Rogers	KR	Dubbo City Council
Mickaela Fairall	MF	Dubbo City Council (Secretary)
Lynton Auld	LA	Dubbo City Council
Andrew Lewis	AL	Bourke Shire Council
Phil Johnston	PJ	Bourke Shire Council
Julian Campbell	JC	Warren Shire Council
Owen Johns	OJ	Wellington Shire Council
Kevin Mason	KM	Wellington Shire Council
Shyamala Manorathan	SM	NSW Office of Water

KR welcomed members and thanked them for their time. Apologised for not thinking of having the meeting yesterday afternoon, as a number of members were already present in Dubbo at the LGA Meeting.

KR acknowledged the apologies.

2. Apologies:

Mark Riley	Dubbo City Council
Troy Grant	Local State Member Dubbo
Ray Najar	President MDA
Bill Gorman	Vice President MDA
Adrian Wells	MDA Manager Upper Murray
Paul Toole	Bathurst Regional Council
David Sherley	Bathurst Regional Council
Doug Patterson	Bathurst Regional Council
Ray Donald	Bogan Shire Council
Danny Dutton	Bogan Shire Council
Geoff Wise	Bourke Shire Council
Bob Dowling	Cabonne Shire Council
Graeme Flemming	Cabonne Shire Council
Lillian Brady	Cobar Shire Council
Garry Woodman	Cobar Shire Council
Des Kennedy	Mid Western Regional Council

Warwick Bennett
Bill McAnally
Greg Lamont
John Davis
Garry Styles
Ken Keith
Kent Boyd
Rex Wilson
Ashley Wielinga
Steve Loane
Anne Jones
Allan Dive
Sue Edwards
John Clague
Tim Ferraro
Diana Kureen
Audrey Tremain
Matt Parmeter
Dan Berry
Sri Sritharan

Mid Western Regional Council
Narromine Shire Council
Narromine Shire Council
Orange City Council
Orange City Council
Parkes Shire Council
Parkes Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Warren Shire Council
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Wellington Shire Council
Wellington Shire Council
Wellington Shire Council
Wellington Shire Council
Central West CMA
Central West CMA
NSW Farmers
NSW Office of Water
State Water
State Water

3. Election of Office Bearers

KR stated that it was now time to re-elect a Chair. He stated that there was no need to elect a Vice President or Secretary. KR stepped down from the Chair and MF stepped in for the Election.

JC nominated KR as Chair. No other nominations were put forward. KR accepted.

KR advised that the Conference in Dalby will be the beginning of the coming year. He is keen to carry the MDA Presidency for another year although would like to stand down as President at the end of that term. Also noted that when he was elected for this position it was the first time that a non Councillor and also the first time that a member outside the Murray system had taken on this position. He personally would like to think that it continued this way.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

KR asked was there any matters to talk about from the last meeting.

A report from Ken was distributed and he reported that a lot of time had been spent talking about the Basin Plan at the last meeting. Since then there had been movement. Craig Knowles had encouraged Bill Gorman, Geoff Wise, Ray Najor and himself to meet with him in Sydney on Tuesday, 14th June in regards to the upcoming Basin Plan. Due to volcanic ash issue Ray was unable to attend. A four hour meeting was held and topics included were:

1. Localism - managed like production and not just a given; managed on a local level with local people managing local water

2. Managed Water – managed by the Commonwealth

Must remember climatic conditions vary and it is not always a given ie. very dry to not so dry climate. Different ideas to different scenarios.

KR suggested that at this stage he is guessing that the authority board are still dealing with authorities in regards to the delivered draft plan and he feels the redrafted version may not be far enough removed from the first draft to be acceptable.

JC said they need to get it right with no problems and better to be delayed.

AL commented at least he (Craig Knowles) is out talking amongst the people

KR described the “hypothetical river” in his update. Stating that we need to be aware of the sustainable limit – this limit will apply equally to the environment. In a dry year the water may need to be shared between producers and the environment, if there is no water for some there is no water for all.

AL mentioned the dry times

KR said that South are desperate for water – need to run out the water as much as possible, but the limits of what can be achieved using Northern Basin water need to be acknowledged in the South and expectations moderated.

JC asked about piping and irrigator sponsored water savings

KR commented that a lot has been happening there – Victoria have channels that are as long as Melbourne to Perth and half way back and many of these are being made more efficient

AL commented with money being spent more on efficiency

JC said Trangie/Nevertire up and going

KR commented looking positive

AL Moved that KR’s report be accepted

Seconded: JC

All in favour

5. National Conference & AGM

KR said the last one at Beechworth was very successful.

This year’s Conference will be held at Dalby QLD over September 7th – 9th. It will be good to see VIC & SA present in this part of the Basin. They may develop an understanding of constraints on water trading.

Key note speakers will be present.

Topics will be Coal Seam Gas and Mining which will then be followed by a specific forum to be held in Narrabri in early November.

6. Carbon Tax

KR asked do we form a position or seek more detail. Is there a position to form a motion?

JC believed a motion should be put forward.

PJ thought maybe wait for more details to come out before we can really comment; not knowing the extremes and maybe naive on the truth of it.

KR said no details confirmed.

AL said should be no carbon tax until further detail – evidence needed.

JC commented saying a concern for jobs.

PJ referred to the PM saying to” pass on the costs”

KR said local government will receive no compensation – going to be more expensive as energy to produce and distribute will cost more. Costs will go up on fuel, bitumen, gravel. Government is suggested that 90% of households will be compensated

KR asked do we impose the impact on local government should be reimbursed?

AL Local government do not have the ability. Is diesel exempt for the first 2 or 3 years?

JC Suggested that maybe wait until we have more information available.

AL Moved the motion that the MDA oppose the Carbon Tax on the basis that insufficient clarity exists and its impact, particularly on local government as not yet understood.

JC Seconded

KM In favour

7. Mining & Agriculture

KR said this was an issue which will be raised in Dalby at the Conference and the subsequent Narrabri forum.

KR said the NSW government had first announced an inquiry into Mining and Land use across NSW.

JC asked so what about the impact on the Artesian Basin?

KR commented that the short term benefit lost unless it is done right.

JC said we need to know what points of view from mining and government.

AL stated we need more information.

PJ asked was there any indication of when the state government enquiry would be completed.

KR said original date was December but now January.

8. Water Buybacks

OJ asked any news on buyback and need in Macquarie?

KR said the general feeling is there is limited need for buyback across the Basin.

AL commented to suspend all water buybacks and a letter should be sent

KR said in terms of environment water holders there will be 2 roles – 1. Purchaser & 2. Manager

OJ asked do we want to support no buybacks

PJ commented that the MDA member support is strong but a better understanding on each other's personal position and needs is required.

AL thought a letter may restrict what Ken can talk about. This position was agreed by the meeting.

9. GM's Report (Report provided to meeting)

KR commented that Ray had been very active knocking on Canberra doors. He continued to say that 3 years ago the former President sat in a meeting with the Minister and was told that MDA was not on the radar. Ray is now receiving phone calls to attend workshops and briefings. They now share views on managing water across the Basin. MDA office update; Ray Najjar (GM), Noma (Secretary – 21 hrs per

week), 2 volunteers and in Albury is Adrian Wells (Manager – 21 hrs per week) and he has 2 support staff (2 days per week).

AJ Moved the Report be accepted
OJ Seconded

10. Presidents Report (Report provided to meeting)

KR made comment on social, economic views to be taken on board.
AJ Moved the Report
LA Seconded

11. General Business

Buy and selling of water

JC made mention of the “Riverlander Notes” and that Rex Wilson was not happy with the purchasing/buying water comment and that the article was not showing us in the right light.

KR commented that the information supplied in the article was factually incorrect and he would like to disband the “Riverlander Notes” and have it changed to something along the lines of the “Basin Bulletin”. With professional organisations producing it and allowing people to trade through it and advertise and sell.

OJ commented that shifting water could be a problem.

KR said that the planner would address those issues.

PJ said that there is no water sharing plan.

JC said pity they can’t access the described water.

KR said rules could change.

JC commented that if you had the money you could buy and sell to local governments anywhere.

KR said within the rules only and that there is a water trader in Nyngan – Richard Bootle who is actively involved in water trading and policy development.

KR asked SM from NSW Office of Water if she had anything to add.

SM added that they are very happy at the moment – no drought and close to 100% in storage again.

12. Farm Catchment Networks Innovation Research Project

KR spoke of an email that invited him to attend the Farm Catchment Networks Innovation Research Project at the University of Melbourne on Thursday, 1 September 2011. This is a research project to better understand how diverse groups work together and to develop knowledge and options for catchment management. KR indicated that he would like Rex Wilson to attend on the MDA’s behalf.

JC asked that the email be forwarded to the Warren Council.

KR suggested that he would forward to Ashley to forward onto Rex. He suggested that this type of thing was another example of recognition for the MDA

13. MDA – Conference Submission (Document distributed)

Ken asked that everyone take a minute to look over.

Comments around the table confirmed KR's concerns. Feels many of the Conference notices were overly parochial or even inappropriate. He will attempt to negotiate rewording of these prior to the Conference.

14. Close

There being no further business KR asked for a date for the next meeting.

JC suggested as the need arises.

AL asked when the Murray Darling Basin Plan is complete

KR moved motion – meeting to be arranged as required

Seconded JC

Meeting closed – 12:00pm