



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 1 Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 21 August 2015, Start Time: 10:30am

Location: Albury City Council

Address: 553 Kiewa St, Albury 2640

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.2 Present

Cr David Thurley	Acting Chairman Region 1
Mr Daryl Jacob OAM	Individual Member, Immediate Past Chair
Mr Arch McLeish OAM	MDA Member, Albury
Mr Bill McDonald	MDA member, Mullengandra
Cr Fiona Schirmer	Corowa Shire
Cr Don Chambers	Indigo Shire
Mr Mark Verbakeen	Wodonga Council
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council
Cr Greg Toll	MDA National President
Ms Emma Bradbury	MDA Chief Executive Officer
Ms Alice Russell	MDA Marketing and Communications Officer
Mr Bill Gorman	Life Member
Cr Stuart Heriot	Greater Hume Shire
Mr Ray Stubbs	Chief Executive Officer RAMROC
Cr David Wortmann	Mayor Towong Shire
Cr George Martin	Tumbarumba Shire Council

1.3 Apologies

Hon Greg Aplin MP	Member for Albury
Geoff Lucas	
Cr Alna Urquhart	Urana Shire Council
Cr Peter Day	Urana Shire Council
Mr Adrian Wells	MDA
Cr John Watson	Wodonga Council
Cr Heather Wilton	Greater Hume Shire Council
Cr Kevin Mack	Mayor AlburyCity Council
Cr Eric Kerr	City of Wodonga
Cr Rodney Wangman	Mayor, City of Wodonga

2. PRESENTATION

2.1 Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, Office of Environment and Heritage – Kate Nairn

Initial introduction by Local Community Engagement Team Leader Dieuwer Reynders of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Kate Nairn from the Office of Environment and Heritage provided a presentation on a new website that

focuses on climate forecasting for the near and far future. The website provides modelling on how climate change will affect New South Wales. It highlights the impact climate change will have on hot days over 35C, cold nights, rainfall and the Forest Fire Danger Index. The mapping provides regional information and can be refined down to an area of 10kms. The localized nature of this information will provide the tools to assist with the future planning of infrastructure, farming and business.

The presentation was exceptionally well received, with the website generally acknowledged as a very comprehensive tool for organizations, businesses and individuals.

Copy of the presentation attached to the minutes.

www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF REGION 1

Acting Chairman, Cr David Thurley stepped down from the Chair to allow the vote to proceed. Cr Greg Toll, National President assumed the Chair.

Cr Fiona Schirmer requested some clarification on voting rights and processes, which was provided.

Voting forms were distributed, and the count conducted by Emma Bradbury as returning officer, and Shannon Clark as scrutineer.

Cr Greg Toll called the result, advising that Cr David Thurley had been successful and would hold the office of Chairperson for Murray Darling Association Region 1.

Cr Tony Quinn would take the position of Deputy Chairperson.

4. WELCOME

4.1 Chair, Region 1

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting declared the meeting opened and noted the apologies received.

Motion: That apologies be accepted. T Quinn/S Herriot - Carried

5. MINUTES

The last meeting was held on Friday 17 April at Albury City Council .

Motion: That the minutes of the last Region 1 meeting be accepted.
D Chambers/T /Quinn- Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Resolutions for the AGM

Ms Bradbury advised the proposed motions for the AGM will be available for viewing on the Murray Darling Association website in the next week. She requested members read the motions and provide any feedback to her.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Draft Board Members Duty Statement

Cr Thurley advised he had the Members Duty Statement.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Tribute to Roy Baird

A number of members paid tribute to Roy Baird. He was remembered as a dedicated community man and a great contributor. It was agreed a letter of condolence would be sent to his family on behalf of the Murray Darling Association.

8.2 Senate Inquiry into the Murray Darling Basin Plan

Ms Bradbury advised the Terms of Reference for the inquiry had been distributed to stakeholders and the Murray Darling Association would be making a submission. She requested that Region 1 formulate their concerns and direct them to the Association for collaboration with the other regions. It was acknowledged that whilst Region 1 may not be directly impacted by the plan there were certainly many flow on effects that needed to be considered. Cr Thurley advised he would draft some comments and distribute to the members for feedback.

Discussion turned to the issue of Water Unbundling and the effect this was having on communities along the Murray River. Ms Bradbury advised the proposed Motion 5 for the AGM dealt with this issue specifically and she urged the members to provide feedback on this issue.

Concerns were raised at the difficulty in finding the balance between environmental concerns and the need for irrigation. Ms Bradbury noted the theme of the National Conference was "It's in the Balance" and would be considered in greater detail there.

Motion: That Region 1 undertake actions and provide support at regional and national level that consider the impacts of water un-bundling, specifically

- 1) That the Murray Darling Association seek a formal investigation into the effects of speculation by non-productive holders of water licences in the Murray Darling Basin.
- 2) That the investigation consider suggested methodologies that would inhibit the purchase of water licences solely for speculative purposes as opposed to productive use.
- 3) That the investigation consider the costs and benefits of re-bundling water licences with land ownership

D Chambers/T Quinn Carried

8.3 Discussion Paper MDA Governance Model Review

Ms Bradbury advised the Constitution was currently being reviewed and the draft would be distributed for comment prior to being presented at the National Conference in 2016 for adoption.

8.4 Environmental Flows – Use of and the Government plans to cap the buy back at 1500GL

Ms Bradbury advised there was currently legislation being proposed as an amendment to the Basin Plan capping buyback at 1500GL. Upon consideration of the proposed amendment, it was noted that while the cap is a step in the right

direction, the MDA has some concerns that the proposed amendment also contains a sunset clause, and an exemption for water acquired by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

Motion: Region 1 supports the amendments to the Basin Plan with the exception of the two items as listed above.

T Quinn/ M Verbakeen Carried

Additional General Business

Cr Thurley read a letter from Adrian Wells advising of his retirement from the Murray Darling Association and thanking members for the support during his time on the committee.

Motion: A letter from Region 1 will be drafted and sent to Adrian Wells thanking him for his contribution to the Murray Darling Association.

D Jacobs/B Mc Donald Carried

Arch McLeish acknowledged his retirement and thanked the Murray Darling Association for their support in enabling Albury to establish the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He noted he had been a delegate from 1987 – 1996 and a member from 1996 until present.

Cr Thurley thanked all for their attendance and noted that at the next meeting it is his intention to have an item on the agenda that is something of a workshop, for Region 1 delegates and members to identify the purpose, direction and aspirations of R1 for the year ahead, and how R1 can best collaborate with other regions for greatest benefit to the association and the Basin communities.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday 20 November 2015

10. CLOSE 12.21pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks AlburyCity for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1.