



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

Friday 16th February 2018
Council Chambers, Alexandrina Council
11 Cadell Street, Goolwa

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

463 High Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

Minutes

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present

Voting Members

Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council
Vern Leng	Coorong District Council
Julie Barrie	Coorong District Council
Clem Schubert	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Ian Mann	Individual Member
Keith Loeser	Individual Member

Guests

Shen Mann	MDA-R6 Executive Officer
Vincent Cammell	CEO, Coorong District Council
Emma Bradbury	CEO, Murray Darling Association (via GoTo meeting)
Steven Wilkinson	Mid Murray Council
Leonie Boothby	Consultant
Deanne Brown	(minute taker)

1.2. Apologies:

Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Adrian Pederick	Member for Hammond
Glenn Rappensberg	CEO, Alexandrina Council
Peter Smith	Individual Member, Region 5

2. WELCOME

2.1. **Housekeeping: Fire safety, toilets & catering.**

2.2. **Conflict of interest: Material / Actual / Perceived**

2.3. **Introduction of Heather Barclay from Murray Bridge**

Cr Featherston welcomed Heather to Region 6 as a voting member and CEO's delegate on the Region Executive.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the previous two meetings of MDA-R6 held on 18 August 2017 and 14 November 2017 be accepted as a true & correct summary of those meetings.

*Moved Vern Leng – Seconded Clem Schubert
Carried*

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Update – Appointment of Executive Officer Cr Featherston

Following an extremely high standard of applicants, Shen Mann of Alexandrina Council has been appointed to the role of MDA-R6 Executive Officer – 1 day per week for 12 months.

4.2 Update – Barrages Taskforce Anne Liddell, Alexandrina Council

Alexandrina Council, Coorong District Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge have all resolved to jointly advocate for the creation of an Intergovernmental Taskforce on the Future of the Barrages. Anne will be overseeing the advocacy process on behalf of the three Councils and will provide regular reports back to MDA-R6, noting that the advocacy journey on this issue is likely to be a long one.

In January 2018, Alexandrina's Mayor wrote to the other two councils outlining a series of proposed advocacy steps as follows:

1. February 2018: Each of the three Councils to nominate a key officer for engagement on the advocacy project to liaise with Anne as advocacy progresses.
2. March 2018: Alexandrina Council to host an intergovernmental meeting of Murray Darling Basin Authority, relevant State Departments and administration representatives from the three Councils to identify latest research and thinking on the matter.
3. March 2018: Alexandrina Council prepare for co-signing by three Councils, a letter to the South Australian Minister for Water and the River Murray, the Hon. Ian Hunter MLC, seeking State Government support to lead on the establishment of the intergovernmental taskforce, copied to the Chair of the MDBA Board and Australian Government Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud MP.
4. May 2018: Alexandrina Council host a community forum on the matter of the barrages and the impact of climate change.
5. Pending timing of response: The three Councils and MDA Region 6 regroup to identify next steps following the State Government response.

Action: Anne to provide regular progress reports to future meetings of MDA-R6.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1. Action List Attachment A

The previous action list has been cross-referenced against the Strategic Directions report and only those actions which are relevant to (but do not duplicate) the priorities identified in the Strategic Directions report have been retained.

Action: Coorong and Tatiara to provide EO with copy of respective Council resolutions appointing Member Council Delegates.

5.2. CEO's Report Emma Bradbury

Emma is now attending all Region meetings via video-link where possible. Emma congratulated R6 on the appointment of our Region Executive and Executive Officer.

Emma gave a summary of Basin Plan related activity in the Federal Parliament, and in particular, the Senate disallowance of the Northern Basin amendment, which would have reduced SDLs in the Northern Basin from 390GL to 320GL.

At the MDA Board meeting held on 31 January 2018, the Board resolved to support the Northern Basin amendment. Post-disallowance motion, the focus of MDA Inc. is how to encourage and support all Basin States to recommit to full and timely implementation of the Basin Plan.

Emma has been in contact with Minister Hunter's office seeking clarification as to the mechanism via which South Australian wants to see recovery of the 450GL up-water linked to the SDL adjustment package of 605GL of down-water.

Membership also discussed implications of Snowy 2.0 for Basin Plan and use of desalination plants as alternative water source. Action: Invite Jarrod Eaton to next inter-regional MDA meeting to provide update re urban allocation & use of water in SA.

5.3. Chair's Report

Cr Featherston

Barry reported on outcomes of the MDA Strategic Planning Workshop held in Albury in late January 2018 and identified the need for a regional boundary review as a key issue arising from that workshop. MDA Inc. will prepare a discussion paper on next steps for consideration by the Board in the first instance.

5.4. Executive Officer Report

Shen Mann

Shen to provide written report for future meetings. Shen attended Strategic Planning Workshop in Albury. Action: Shen will work with Emma to develop a standard position description or task-list for region secretariats.

5.5. Media Comments

Attachment B

The purpose of this Standing Item is to ensure that MDA-R6 members are aware of each other's positions as expressed in the media. Prior to future meetings, each Local Government member of MDA-R6 will be expected to provide a brief report listing, and attaching a copy of, any relevant media releases, articles and/or appearances by Council spokespersons. MDA national will be asked to provide a similar report. The Executive Officer may also include links to key media reports at a state and national level on issues related to the management of Basin water resources.

The Membership discussed whether notices from MDA Inc. should be distributed by EO to Region Executive only or to the entire Region membership. Agreed that notices should be circulated to entire membership. Emma advised that notices should not be distributed beyond members of the MDA.

MDA Inc. have sought feedback from the Regions on topics to be discussed with the NSW Natural Resource Regulator.

Action: Executive Officer to submit feedback on behalf of R6 as summarised below:

- no metering, no pumping;
- review water sharing arrangements in the Lower Darling to protect environmental flows;
- ensure progress towards completion of Water Resources Plans; and

- ensure Regulator itself is appropriate staff & resourced to ensure transparent compliance.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. Strategic Directions Report & Action Plan 2018

Leonie Boothby – Attachment C

Leonie:

- presented the draft Strategic Directions Report and assisted the group to determine the top priorities to be addressed in 2018; and
- assisted the group to set clear expectations for the respective roles and responsibilities of the Executive Officer and MDA-R6 membership in researching & responding to these priority issues.

Issues to be prioritised are as follows:

- 1a – Climate Change
- 2a – Water Quality: river & lake levels
- 2b – Water Quality: salinity
- 2c – Water Quality: Future of the Barrages
- 2d – Water Quality: carp control
- 3 – Influence & credibility
- 4a – Sustainable community – understand regional challenges re water use
- 4b – Sustainable community – assist community & industry adjust to less water
- 4c – Sustainable community – NZ Fur Seals

Agreed that Priority 3 is critically important and requires a pro-active engagement strategy but will also develop over time as R6 becomes involved in and known for action in relation to the other “issues” based priorities on the list.

Action: Prior to next meeting of Region Executive, the EO will prepare (1) an Engagement Strategy in response to Priority 3, and (2) brief scoping documents for Priorities 2a, 2b, 2d. The next Ordinary Meeting of R6 in April will decide which of those scoping documents should be progressed in the first instance. The EO will also make suggestions for next steps in response to the MDBA socio-economic community profiles once released by the MDBA (Priority 4a).

6.2. Any other business?

TBD

Keith Loeser notes that City of Victor Harbor (**CVH**) has a new CEO, Victoria MacKirdy and suggests that CVH should be approached to become a member of the MDA. Barry Featherston queries whether CVH would fit better within Region 7 rather than Region 6 as a non-riparian Council.

Action: Barry and Keith to make joint approach to new CVH CEO encouraging CVH to become a member of the MDA.

Suggested that Professor Mike Young be invited to present to MDA-R6. Action: EO to invite Professor Young to speak with a future meeting of Region 6 when an appropriate list of questions/topics is to be under discussion i.e. sustainable communities.

7. NEXT MEETING

Date: 20 April 2018.

Time: 9.30am for 10am start.

Location: Coorong District Council, Tailem Bend

8. CLOSE

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Alexandrina Council for their support in hosting this meeting of MDA Region 6.