



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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

Level 1, 250
Anstruther Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

NOTICE OF Meeting

The Murray Darling Association Region 8 meeting will be held on

Friday 25 September 2020 11.30am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85169830446?pwd=Uzc4L1hzVFdqHJqKzl0TWlhcFpjZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 6983 0446

Passcode: 281995

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Chair Cr Brian Lockyer**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Attendance**
4. **Apologies**
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting** Held Friday 26 June 2020



MDA Region 8 -
Minutes 26 June 2020

6. **Business Arising**

6.1 Basin-scale Environmental Watering

Presentation now available Legatus Group Website <https://legatus.sa.gov.au/naturalenvironment/> and booklet distributed at Legatus Group meeting to councils.

6.2 Drought Futures Fund

The Legatus Group CEO provided a report with the agenda to the 4 September 2020 Legatus Group and provided an update that the SA Community Wellbeing and Resilience Grant application was not successful, and progress is occurring with a report from Edge Consulting on possible Drought Future Fund Projects (noting that 2 of the programs which Councils could be involved with close on 25 Sept).

General discussion centred on the continual support for the Wellbeing project instigated by the Northern Councils and being led by Dylan Strong. Consensus that Dylan Strong and Legatus Group

CEO evaluate and provide report for November Legatus Group meeting unless special meeting required earlier.

The Legatus Group supported the progress of the SA Water Smart Irrigation and the Space Down Under Stormwater Harvesting Projects, Wellbeing Projects and the partnership approach through the Yorke Mid North Alliance on the Drought Futures Fund.

6.3 Water Supply Infrastructure

Cr. Brian Lockyer sought and received the following report from SA Water.

1. Can I have a copy of or listings of water supply infrastructure services supplying the Yorke Peninsula, Mid North, and Far Northern areas.

SA Waters' Northern and Mid North Systems encompasses a vast sector of South Australia bound by the Northern Territory border to the north, the NSW and Victorian borders to the east, the Eyre System to the west and the Central and Riverland Regions to the south. The systems encompass key regional towns in the Upper Spencer Gulf (USG) including Whyalla, Port Augusta, and Whyalla, with Morgan and Swan Reach to the East.



SA Water's Mid North Water System

The Northern and Mid North Systems comprises the following 27 sub-systems which are utilised to monitor important customer levels of service including water quality and reliability:

1. The Morgan Sub System
2. The Swan Reach Sub System
3. The Morgan Swan Reach Sub System
4. The Hawker Sub System
5. The Leigh Creek Sub System
6. The Melrose Sub System
7. The Orroroo Sub System
8. The Parachilna Sub System
9. The Quorn Sub System
10. The Wilmington Sub System
11. 17 Non-Drinking Sub Systems (North and Far North)

The main water source for these systems is the River Murray at Morgan and Swan Reach with the balance largely supplied from ground water aquifers and surface water catchments for sub systems in the north and far north of the region.

Water Treatment Plants at Morgan and Swan Reach process the river water in preparation for distribution throughout the regions. These plants are credited with producing some of the highest results in our customer taste testing surveys.

Significant economic development is underway in these regions and particularly in the Upper Spencer Gulf (USG) and the Clare Valley. SA Water is well placed to support these ventures with an affordable, quality, and reliable water supply.

The growth over recent years is broad and has seen: Mining, Agriculture, Viticulture and Tourism developments flourish throughout these regions. The associated population growth has complimented this growth in system demand.

Despite the strong growth, these systems have performed well over the preceding years and have met the vast majority of the customer service targets.

These systems have been challenged by a protracted period of drought during which aquifer recharge and catchments inflows have been approximately 40% below longterm trends

These associated source water challenges result in highly varied source water quality and availability.

2. What security actions are in place relevant to, breakdown of supply, damage to pumps and or criminal/terrorist actions.

SA Water's system design philosophy seeks to ensure that water supply to our customers is extremely reliable and robust. These design philosophies include embracing gravity systems wherever possible with pump stations used predominantly to maintain supply to suitably sized water storages in higher elevations.

Asset Management prepare detailed Asset Management Plans for each system. These plans seek to deliver:

- a. Periodic asset conditions assessments
- b. Ongoing (live) asset operational monitoring,
- c. Appropriate levels of asset redundancy employed at critical sites,
- d. Timely repairs to equipment failures.
- e. The timely renewal of asset at the end of their useful life.

Security fencing and both plant and site monitoring compliment this approach and ensure early warning in the event of an unforeseen incident arising.

3. What reserve catchments or dams are available within the area above mentioned.

Reservoirs used to supply regional areas historically, e.g. Baroota and Bundaleer, were separated from the system following the introduction of the filtered water supply from Morgan and Swan Reach which saw enhanced quality water distributed across the state.

These reservoirs are now available to support agricultural and renewable energy initiatives and support economic development in these regional areas.

4. What is the down time of service in the event of Q2 above and what backup systems available.

Assets are assessed for criticality periodically and upgrades configured to ensure an appropriate level of redundancy, this approach ensures that:

- a. Critical water storage sites are configured with multiple storages,
- b. Pump Stations are constructed with standby or spare pump in place,
- c. Standby generators are available to support Electranet and SAPN outages, and
- d. Appropriate spares are available and in place.
- e. Teams are able to respond to outages at all times.

Business continuity planning complements this approach and ensures that impacts to customers resulting from; breakdown, damage, or vandalism, are kept to a minimum.

5. Is there plans to improve/increase water distribution to the area

Modelling completed by SA Water has concluded that investment is required to meet the anticipated future growth opportunities in the region and has recommended augmentation of the system to meet the forecast customer demand. These include:

- a. Augmentation of the Morgan sub system is planned in the current regulatory business period to ensure we support state growth opportunities and meet our customer water needs.
- b. In the far north the townships of, Maree, Oodnadatta, Marla, Yunta, Terowie, and Mannahill are scheduled to receive drinking water upgrades by June 2024.

7. Presentations

Nil

8. Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

8.2 CEO's Report

9. General Business

10. Other Business

11. Close