



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: 26 July 2021 - 10.30am commencement

1. Attendance

1.1 Present

Mayor Paul Maytom – Leeton Shire Council (Chairman)
Emma Bradbury – CEO MDA (by videolink)
Cr Jenny Clarke- Narrandera Shire Council
Mayor Ruth McRae – Murrumbidgee Council
Mayor Greg Conkey – Wagga Wagga City Council (by videolink)
Mayor John Dal Broi - Griffith City Council (by videolink)
Jackie Kruger – General Manager, Leeton Shire Council
Mandy Rogers – Leeton Shire Council (Secretary)
John Scarce – General Manager - Murrumbidgee Council (by videolink)
Bede Spannangle - Riverina Water County Council (by videolink)
Cr Glen Andrezza - Griffith City Council
Cr Dino Zappacosta – Griffith Council (by videolink)
Joe Burns – Private Member
Matt Woodward - MDBA

1.2 Apologies

Mayor Neville Kschenka - Narrandera Shire Council
Shane Wilson- Narrandera Shire Council
Russell Campbell – Carrathool Council

2. Welcome

It was noted that Cr Glen Andrezza had been elected as Chairman at the AGM held immediately prior to this Ordinary Meeting.

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

3. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairman conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

4. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 were taken as read and accepted.

6. Guest Presentation - MDBA

Matt Woodward from MDBA provided a presentation that included the following topics:-

- 2021 River Reflections Conference Highlights, the details of which are available at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/news-media-events/river-reflections-conference>
- MDBA Regional Community Forum, the details of which are available at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/news-media-events/regional-community-forums>
- MDBA's initiative to provide additional information on the issues surrounding the Barmah Choke, the details of which are available at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/community-concerns-updates/why-barmah-choke-flood>
- MDBA's webinar series that focuses on different aspects of water management and river operations, the details of which are available at: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/webinars>
- The most recent storage facility statistics and the seasonal outlook.

Following the presentation Matt Woodward took questions and engaged in discussion that included the most recent storage facility statistics and the seasonal outlook and the height of the Murrumbidgee River at various locations and the likely flood risk.

7. CEO's Report

It was noted that the CEO's Reports for January to June 2021 are at: <https://www.mda.asn.au/about-us/ceo-s-reports.aspx> and the MDA Board Meeting Minutes for January to June 2021 are at: <https://www.mda.asn.au/agendas-minutes.aspx>

The Reports and Minutes were taken as read and noted. Emma Bradbury spoke to some key points that included the following:-

- The impact of the re-scheduling of Local Government elections
- The opportunities provided by alignment with MDBA
- The Basin Communities Leadership Program
- The disruptions experienced as a result of COVID restrictions
- The role of Local Government in shaping water reform
- An update of staffing and recruitment at MDA

8. General Business

Inter-Valley Transfer Draft Submission

The Chairman advised that a draft submission had been prepared and provided to the MDA Board and an overview was provided by Jackie Kruger.

Lake Coolah/Mejum

It was noted that the Region 9 Executive had taken a motion to the MDA Annual Conference for the proposal, as initiated by David Farley, and the recommendation for a feasibility study had been adopted at the Conference. A copy of the proposal would be provided to Region 9 for information.

Resolved that Region 9 would continue to provide support to David Farley in progressing the initiative, including with the MDA Board.

Yanco Creek Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Project

It was noted that there was still no clear position on the SDL Projects.

Resolved that Region 9 should seek clarity from Minister Pavey regarding the status of the SDL Projects.

9. Close and Next Meeting

In closing and on behalf of Region 9, Cr Maytom extended congratulations to Cr Glen Andrezza.

It was noted that future meetings will be scheduled in Griffith for the second Monday of the relevant month and that Emma Bradbury will circulate a schedule.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.