



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: Friday 24 February 2017, Start Time: 10.30am

Location: Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council

Address: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury NSW 2640

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Mayor Kevin Mack	AlburyCity Council
Cr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chairman Region 1
Mark Verbaken	Wodonga Council
Cr Ron Mildren	Wodonga Council
Jacqui Bright	Wangaratta Council
Geoff Lucas	Independent Member for Beechworth
Cr Fiona Schirmer	Federation Council
Brad Ferris	AlburyCity Council
Ray Stubbs	Chief Executive Officer RAMROC
Elizabeth Sandow	Office of Sussan Ley

1.2 Apologies

Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association
Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire
Heather Wilton	Greater Hume Shire
Terry Weston	Greater Hume Shire
Chris Gillard	Federation Council

2. WELCOME

2.1 Cr Kevin Mack – Mayor, AlburyCity Council

Mayor of AlburyCity Council, Cr Kevin Mack, welcomed all to the meeting.

2.2 Cr David Thurley - Chair Region 1

Cr Thurley welcomed members to the meeting and declared the meeting opened. Apologies were noted.

3. MINUTES

Moved: Geoff Lucas Seconded: Mark Verbaken

Motion: That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 Meeting held on Friday 25 November 2016 be accepted. CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Cr Thurley to forward a presentation from the November 2016 AGM to members. The presentation was from Andrew Reynolds of the MDBA and related to management of Hume Dam during the period August to October 2016.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

Cr Thurley provided an update on the issue of Region 1 Membership. Due to rate pegging and amalgamations across NSW and Victoria, membership has become an issue for the association. Given our reliance on membership fees for income the National President and Chair of Region 1 together with the CEO is focusing on meeting with potential member councils.

5.2 CEO's Report

In the CEO's absence, Chair Cr Thurley provided an update on strategic priorities for 2017. Priorities include advocacy with the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)/Local Government and Region 1 membership growth.

Moved: Brad Ferris Seconded: Fiona Schirmer

Motion: That the reports from the Chairman and CEO be received and accepted.

CARRIED

6. STRATEGIC PLANNING

6.1 Region 1 Statement of Issues & Priorities

Requests to be sent to member councils and potential member councils requesting a brief issues paper for discussions at the Board Planning Workshop. Issues discussed included:

- Implementation of Basin Plan
- Water security and water quality
- Constraints Management Policy
- Level of MDBA involvement in the communication of recent flood events
- MDA/MDBA involvement in Lake Hume management
- Follow up on commitments made by the MDBA during recent meetings after the flood events, in particular the meeting convened by Cathy McGowan in Wodonga.
- Maintaining a minimum 10% level of the Hume Dam
- Consideration to tourism events when making decisions on river flows
- Community communication not released at essential times – can emergency text alerts be sent to households likely to be affected by potential flooding
- Further engagement between local government, MDBA and the Ministerial Council
- Lake Hume Management Plan

Action: Cr Thurley to contact member councils and potential member councils requesting a more detailed issues paper relevant to the points above.

6.2 Regional Boundaries Review

The Board decided that this would not be a priority for the remainder of this year but regions may decide to provide feedback.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Cr Ron Mildren raised that the Murray Darling Basin Authority are seeking to relocate offices; Albury Wodonga is a potential location.

Moved: Mark Verbaken Seconded: Ron Mildren

Motion: That Region 1 Chair contact MDBA Chair indicating a strong interest that Albury Wodonga be chosen as the new location.

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING:

8.1 The next Murray Darling Association Region 1 ordinary meeting will be held at 10.30am on Friday 26 May 2017 in the Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council, 553 Kiewa Street Albury

9. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 11.12am

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