



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: Friday 25 June 2021, Start Time: 10.30am  
Location: Councillors Meeting Room, Albury City Council  
Address: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury NSW 2640

## MINUTES

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chair Region 1
Mr Adrian Butler	CEO - Federation Council
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Indigo Council
Cr David Wortmann	Mayor - Towong Shire
Brad Ferris	Deputy CEO – IP & E - AlburyCity Council
Emma Bradbury	CEO – MDA (via Zoom)

#### 1.2 Apologies

Cr Kevin Mack	Cr Pat Bourke
Mr Geoff Lucas	Frank Zaknich
Cr Greg Conkey	Cr Jenny O'Connor

### 2. WELCOME & PURPOSE

Cr Thurley (Chair Region 1) welcomed members to the meeting and declared the meeting opened.

**Moved:** Cr David Wortmann **Seconded:** Cr Bernard Gaffney

**Motion:** That the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

**NB:** At this point in time, **Item 6** was brought forward to enable Sue Harper and Rachel Orr from AlburyCity's Tourism Team to address the committee regarding ideas for the next MDA Conference to be held in Albury 2022.

At the conclusion of that item, **Item 7** was brought forward to allow the CEO Emma Bradbury to address the meeting by Zoom. The CEO then left the meeting.

### 3. MINUTES

**Moved:** Cr Gaffney **Seconded:** Cr Wortmann

**Motion:** That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2021 be accepted.

CARRIED

#### 4. STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP OF REGION 1

Discussions took place on the membership and boundaries of Region 1. It was felt that after the September NSW Local Government elections, the Chair of Region 1 should engage with all councils who are not members of the MDA Region 1 to discuss the possibility of them joining.

There is also merit in reviewing the historical boundaries and assessing which Councils should belong to Region 1.

**Moved:** Cr Gaffney **Seconded:** Cr Thurley

**Motion:** That the membership of MDA Region 1 remain a standing item for every meeting.  
CARRIED

#### 5. CURRENT ISSUES FROM REGIONAL 1 COUNCILS

##### 5.1 Albury – Cr Thurley

- NIL

##### 5.2 Indigo – Cr Gaffney

- Enquired whether the Lake Hume Advisory Committee still meet - Cr Gaffney would like the Committee to meet regularly.
- Sunday Creek at Wahgunyah has become silty and the North East Catchment Management Authority is following it up.

##### 5.3 Federation Council – Adrian Butler - CEO

- NSW Government requirements for town water and sewerage risk management are frustrating and changes are never ending. There was discussion around the Victorian model and its effectiveness.

##### 5.4 Towong – Cr Wortmann

- Camping on the river is still a hot topic – poorly explained and therefore confusion reigns.

#### 6. GUEST PRESENTATION

Sue Harper and Rachel Orr (AlburyCity Tourism) presented a slide show with ideas for the next MDA Conference to be held in the Albury in Sep/Oct 2022 and advised of the venues that had expressed an interest in hosting the conference. Discussion took place about suggested field trips/tours for participants and their partners, gala dinner venue etc.

It was felt that the best days for the Conference to be held was Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the tour on the Monday. This worked particularly well for the Wentworth Conference.

Committee members were asked to discuss suggested trips and venues for events with their Councils and come back to the next meeting with ideas and suggestions.

Suggestions for Field trip sites included Dartmouth Dam, Lake Hume and Wonga Wetlands. Day trips for partners could be to Rutherglen, Beechworth, Jindera, etc.

Whilst 130 delegates attended the Wentworth Conference, it was felt that there would be scope for more people to attend the Albury Conference given that Albury was easily accessible by air, road and rail.

Guest Speakers to be invited would include the Federal Minister for Water, NSW Minister for Water, MDBA Chair and the Committee were asked if they had any particular requests for guest speakers to advise the CEO Emma Bradbury and she would make contact with them.

There will be a Planning Committee setup for the overall planning of the Conference.

## **7. CEO'S REPORT**

The CEO Emma Bradbury reported on the next steps after the successful Wentworth conference.

This week, Emma attended National General Assembly for Local Government in Canberra and engaged with members of parliament, departmental staff of Agriculture, Water and Environment, Infrastructure and the CEWH and felt that the meetings were very worthwhile and great feedback was received.

The Deputy Secretary has asked his Department for a paper with regard to the Commonwealth funding local government MDAs which is very encouraging.

The Inspector General is now Troy Grant and it is hoped that the role will soon have clear firm legislative powers as this was debated in the Parliament House this week.

The CEO of RAMJO Bridgett Leopold has resigned and is taking up the position of Deputy Inspector General and the CEO expressed her belief that Bridgett will do a great job in this position as she did as CEO of RAMJO. There are also a number of engagement officer positions being advertised at the moment for this area.

The CEO also made mention of the Region 2 MDA meeting which was held recently. A very worthwhile meeting with great presentations and motions.

**Moved: Cr Thurley Seconded: Adrian Butler**

**Motion:** That the CEO's report be received and noted. CARRIED

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

NIL

## **9. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**NSW Local Government Elections will be held on 4 September so meetings will be determined after the election.**

## **10. CLOSE**

**Meeting closed at 11.45 am.**

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