



MINUTES

**MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION (MDA) INC.
REGION 9 ORDINARY MEETING
HELD IN PERSON/VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, 28 JUL 2022 AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT

Chair Cr Glen Andreazza (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jenny Clarke, Narrandera Shire Council; Paul Maytom, CEO Mark Lamb, MDA (Via Zoom); Tim Phillips, Communications Officer, MDA Head Office (via Zoom); Bede Spannagle, Riverina Water (via Zoom); Cr Geoff Chapman, Hay Shire Council (via Zoom); Cr Paul Smith, Leeton Shire Council (via Zoom), Austin Morris, Lockhart Shire Council (via Zoom), GM Jackie Kruger (via Zoom), Leeton Shire Council, Mayor Ruth McRae, Murrumbidgee Council, and Kim Burgess, Minute Secretary

1 APOLOGIES

Mayor Doug Curran (Griffith City Council), GM Brett Stonestreet, Griffith City Council; Cr Gail Driscoll (Lockhart Shire Council), Mayor Neville Kschenka (Narrandera Shire Council), Joe Burns.

2 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair Glen Andreazza welcomed Members and conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Paul Maytom and Jackie Kruger that the minutes of the previous meeting on 19 May 2022, having first been circulated amongst the members be confirmed.

5.1 CEO'S REPORT

CEO Mark Lamb spoke of the efforts to increase membership Councils to the MDA. Mark reiterated on what he indicated last meeting in saying that he is trying to communicate with Non-Member Councils to build the strength of the Association and the representation value of the MDA across Councils, State Governments and Federal Government.

Mark mentioned the key partnership with One Basin CRC, which is a 10 year plan initially driven by Melbourne University and the Drought Resilience Hub.

The current partnership with the CSIRO has developed into a program on the Circular Economy, such as waste recycling and waste to energy which is inter-relatable with the use of water and circular movement of water. Mark indicated he made a presentation to the CSIRO in Canberra and received a favourable response. Mention made also that the relationship has attracted important funding which will benefit the MDA.

Mark also offered a presentation to the Group at a future Region 9 meeting to be related to his information presented to the CSIRO.

Mark provided an overall picture of the upcoming Agenda for the MDA National Conference in Albury in September 2022. An expectation that there could be 250 people to the Conference and the emphasis is on attendance in person.

Mark confirmed that there is approximately half the Councils in the MDA catchment area that are signed up MDA members. Playing our part as a member effects change opportunities through motions and work that is proactive in the MDA area. There are a number of issues that require a strong membership and effect on decision making.

Paul Maytom made the point that there is value of membership and as prior Mayor of Leeton Shire Council, Paul explained the benefits on previous occasions to other Councillors and others and is willing again to play a part where he can. Glen requested the list of eligible Councils in our region and perhaps discussion can occur on how best to involve those Councils in the Region 9 membership.

Mark mentioned at last Board meeting David Farley presented on Lake Mejum proposed project. Key message is that there is frustration over the socialising of the project, with key political figures and MDBA but no provision of firm responses. However the MDA Board considered the project and it appears that the project will go to a formal motion that will be put to the AGM. Once that can occur the proposal will go to Federal and State Governments. Chair Andreazza made the point that there is a need for the finalisation of the concept of the funding of the feasibility study.

Jenny Clarke agreed to the importance of the matter going to formal motion and further on.

Paul Maytom made the point that much of the water that falls is below dams and it is trying to collect that water and excess water that is a looming issue. Mark Lamb indicated that there will be experts that will be attending the Conference to talk about these points.

Ruth McRae reminded of the importance of including irrigators, farmers and communities in the conversation around water storage and solutions using ancillary ways of catching water.

David added that he is aware of the importance to listen to a broad range of voices and inclusive of all views.

5.2 MDA BOARD MEETINGS

MDA Board Meetings 2022 as per the Website are noted.

6 PRESENTATION

Attending via visual link for the presentation was:

Matt Woodward, Senior Engagement Officer, MDBA.

Refer to the attached slides for the presentation notes

7 ITEMS

7.1 SUBMISSION MADE ON MURRUMBIDGEE REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

The members noted the submission made.

7.2 YANCO CREEK MODERNISATION PROJECT (YMCP)

The Members were made aware of the efforts to request attendance from the various Government Departments to present at this meeting.

Ruth McRae advised her concerns over the bureaucracy and slow speed of movement in processes and slow return of information related to the funding around the modernisation project.

Frustrations are felt by a number of members in the meeting room as they shared their information including details provided by Ruth McRae on the 3 Rivers presentation on the YCMP environmental impact assessment update amongst other items.

The Members agreed that the request to the appropriate Government bodies be continued to have a presentation at the next meeting.

The Members agreed that this item on the YMCP be kept on the Agenda for future meetings.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held 28 May 2022 at 10am. That meeting will be open to all Members to attend in-person if they wish to do so. Otherwise a Zoom link will be made available to those that would prefer that way of joining the meeting.

Close 12.20pm

Murray Darling Association Region 9

MDBA update

Matt Woodward
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Andrew McConviHe

Chief Executive, MDBA

Andrew commenced as Chief Executive of the MDBA in June 2022. With 3 decades of experience in natural resource management he has held previous leadership roles, both domestic and international, across a range of corporate industries.

Griffith Office



15 staff in total across 12 teams

- 7 existing residents
- 8 moved to the area

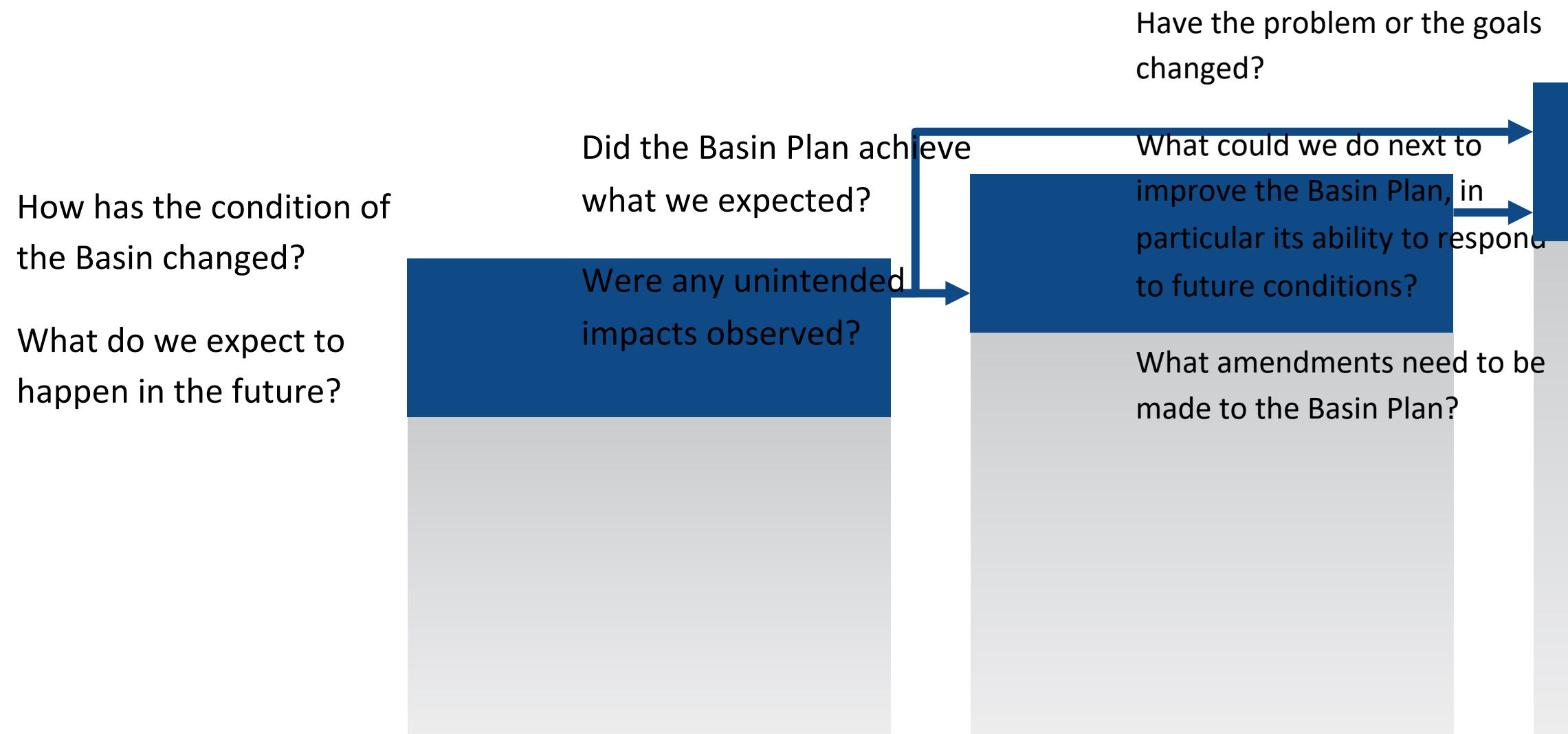
NSW Water Resource Plans



20 plans in total

- 2 plans formally submitted
- 5 plans in “pre-submission”

Pathway to the Basin Plan review



Murray–Darling Basin Outlook

The **historic, present and future:**
environmental, economic, cultural and
social conditions of the Basin — the
quadruple bottom line.

Looks forward to 2050



2025 Basin Plan Evaluation

5-yearly review into the effectiveness of the Basin Plan

Collects evidence and provides recommended actions for improvement





2026 review of the Basin Plan

Based on the science and evidence collated in the Basin Plan Outlook (2023/24) and Basin Plan Evaluation (2025)

The review is a legislated check point, and an opportunity to amend the Basin Plan based on new information, knowledge and evidence

Matt Woodward
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