



# 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 June 2020 - 10.00am commencement  
**GoToMeeting:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/841584725>

#### 1. ATTENDANCE

##### 1.1 Present

Chair Mayor Paul Maytom – Leeton Shire Council  
GM Jackie Kruger – Leeton Shire Council  
CEO Emma Bradbury – MDA (link) – left meeting 11.30am  
Cr Ruth McRae – Murrumbidgee Council  
Cr Russell Campbell – Carrathool Shire Council  
Cr Greg Conkey – Mayor Wagga City Council  
Cr Tammy Galvin – Narrandera Shire Council (link)  
Shane Wilson acting GM – Narrandera Shire Council (link)  
Cr Dino Zappacosta – Griffith City Council (link)  
Mayor John Dal Broi – Griffith City Council (link)  
GM David Webb – Hay Shire Council  
Joe Burns – Private Member  
EA Melissa Seymour – Leeton Shire Council  
Cr Tony Reneker – Leeton Shire Council (link) joined 10.30am- left 12.10pm  
Cr Michael Kidd - Leeton Shire Council joined meeting at 10.30am  
Cr George Weston - Leeton Shire Council joined 10.30am – left 12.15pm  
Claire Miller – Presenter Claire Miller Consulting – left meeting at 12.10pm  
Ms Steph Cooke MP Parliamentary Secretary to the NSW Deputy Premier (link)

##### 1.2 Apologies

Mayor Rodger Schirmer – Lockhart Shire Council  
GM Peter Veneris – Lockhart Shire Council  
Mayor Neville Kschenka – Narrandera Shire Council  
GM John Scarce – Murrumbidgee Council

Mr Bede Spannagle – RWCC  
Cr Tony Ciccia – Leeton Shire Council  
Mr Bede Mecham – Private Member

Moved by Mr Joe Burns / Second by Cr Russell Campbell

## 2. WELCOME

### 2.1 Chair Region 9

Cr Paul Maytom welcomed all to the meeting, those in person and those via link. Cr Conkey noted new delegate for Wagga Wagga City Council will be voted at next council meeting on Monday night. Cr Tammy Galvin from Narrandera Shire Council noted she will be MDA delegate until September 2020 and Cr Clarke will then be delegate from September 2020.

## 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil Interests were declared

## 4. MINUTES

### 4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting – 23 March 2020

Noted Russell Campbell was not in attendance at last meeting. Cr Maytom advised that there is going to be a whole review of ground water. Noted as read and accepted.

## 5. CEO's REPORT

### 5.1 CEO's reports May 2020 [online](#)

Tabled CEO report and taken as read. CEO Emma Bradbury advised that Murray Darling Association (MDA) are producing a range of products for the Regions benefits - The Delegates report is one product that is now produced monthly. Emma also advised the MDA National Conference for 2020 will be held this year in Shepparton via link on 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Theme this year is 'local knowledge and national priorities'. The MDA Strategic Plan 2025 will be released in a few weeks with focus on seeking a stronger alignment of national priorities. Emma also advised that the MDA Board was recently briefed on the invitation from One Basin CRC to work in alliance and confirmed to Region 9 that discussions have progressed strongly with the partnership. MDA has also been working with CSIRO and confirmed a relationship agreement for research initiatives. Profiles are strengthening with MDA, Regions, LGA's, RAMJO's and JO's with relations and projects also a major factor.

### 5.2 MDA Board Meeting (No. 398) [Minutes](#)

Minutes were noted as read.

## 6. PRESENTATION

### 6.1 Claire Miller – Director at Claire Miller Consulting Pty Ltd Email: [claire@cmc21.com](mailto:claire@cmc21.com) Mobile: 0409 509 677

Claire presented on the below key points (power point presentation provided):

- Update on National Water Initiative and the Water Act and upcoming Productivity Commission Review
- Reading and interpreting Water Allocation Statements
- How General Security Allocations are made

- Status of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Projects in NSW
- Pros and Cons of Intervalley Trade
- Over Extraction of Ground Water in the Murrumbidgee Valley/MIA

Region 9 meeting participants commended Claire on her presentation and acknowledged the calibre of the presentation.

The floor was opened to questions:

Cr John Dal Broi – *Raised 450 up water fear if it was to be clawed back from the Murrumbidgee River allocation. (Claire – Minco have re-affirmed their commitment to the need for a positive or neutral socio-economic impact on communities)*

*Local State Minister Melinda Pavey MP has threatened to walk from plan (Claire - legally it is a Commonwealth plan and instrument. If NSW pull out the Commonwealth can implement regardless. If States walked out it would not change water allocations).*

Cr Tammy Galvin – suggested that Claire present to each council. Claire is open to this and may consider filming her presentation when she has time.

GM Jackie Kruger LSC – *Raised concern about Intervalley trade and that Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) has put a submission to the Government to allow free intervalley trade to date. Council has worked to see intervalley trade tightened. She wondered if Claire would have a view on why MI has taken this position. (Claire – was unaware and could not provide an answer).*

*Raised concern about the apparent focus on alleviating constraints through the Barmah choke. (Claire - policy mismatch is occurring, there is an open market with no constraints. It is understood there is no intention to increase capacity, only to address filling and other matters that have reduced flow capacity).*

*Regional water strategies – Are these the same as the water sharing plans? We believe needs to be closer relationship between land use planning and water use. (Claire – not sure of the difference - recommend searching online. Land use planning essential to water management).*

*When parties signed up to supporting the water initiative they did not anticipate General Security Water becoming Low Security Water. (Claire – false drivers are having an effect and all the data is held by the Department).*

Cr Ruth McRae – *There are currently 3 proposed SDLAM projects in Region 9's backyard and feel the Region has already given enough water back and anything further will have a huge impact. Yanco Creek project lacks due diligence. Many factors have not been considered and believe that there are other ways to make ground. Group is solution driven and we need some certainty. Lack of allocations is a huge concern as well as climate etc. Project leader has recently resigned, faith in system and due process is next to nothing. (Claire – in the end most decisions will be political and will be based on law or legislative element. Stressed political engagement is very important. Helps if Minco are on board and important to talk with the Labour party too).*

Chair Paul Maytom - *Attended drought outlook webinar and predictions look very good compared to previous years due to rainfall. Asked why can't allocations change based on this. (Claire – a lot of behind the scenes talking occurs with the department and triggers are over conservative).*

Paul advised attends the Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group meetings as representative for RAMJO. Regarding the pie chart calculation of conveyance & river losses is vague and not understood. **(Claire - advised conveyance entitlement held by Coleambally, MI work has reduced losses and is reallocated to irrigators. Water accounting is diabolically limited. If irrigator orders and does not take up it becomes the rivers water and does not get reallocated).**

As mentioned in Claire's presentation, the DPIE contact person for explaining the allocation statements is Brian Graham, 0413 017 826, [brian.graham@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brian.graham@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Allocation statements can be found on this link:

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/statements>

The next update will be 1 July for the start of the 2020-21 water year. This is usually a very basic statement – the next detailed statement with the pie chart reset will be 15 July.

The regional water strategies website is: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/regional-water-strategies>

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 Drought Outlook and water availability, Southern Valleys - available via video link  
<https://vimeo.com/423971053>

- 7.2 Lower Lakes Scientific Findings Report – available via video link  
<https://getinvolved.mdba.gov.au/lower-lakes-independent-science-review>

Chair encouraged delegates to view the two links provided as both are very informative.

- 7.3 RAMJO Water Position Paper

The RAMJO position paper was released today and is embargoed until 10.30am. Cr John Dal Broi suggested to move that we as MDA Region 9 support the position paper of RAMJO.

Moved Cr John Dal Broi / Second by Chair Paul Maytom

- 7.4 MDA National Conference Motions

Chair Paul Maytom advised that the cut off date for the National Conference motions has occurred, however late motions can be accepted. Once members have considered RAMJO water paper they might like to suggest a motion. (Motions from Region 9 have been lodged with MDA).

## 8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Next Meeting: 17 September 2020 - Ordinary Meeting

## 8. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 12.26pm

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Leeton Shire Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 9.*