



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

## Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Friday 17th April 2015, 10.00am

Albury City Council - Robert Brown Room  
553 Kiewa Street, Albury 2640

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Mr Daryl Jacob OAM  
Cr Kevin Mack  
Cr George Martin  
Cr David Thurley  
Mr Arch McLeish OAM  
Mr Adrian Wells  
Cr Fiona Schirmer  
Mr Bill McDonald OAM  
Mr Mark Verbakeen  
Emma Bradbury  
Cr Bob Kirk  
Cr Alan Urqhart  
Gary Kerr  
Kieran Keenan  
Brad Ferris  
Cr Don Chambers  
Tony Quinn  
Cr David Wortman

Chairman Region 1  
Mayor – Albury City  
Tumbarumba Shire Council  
Albury City Council  
MDA member, Albury  
MDA Manager Upper Catchment  
Corowa Shire Council  
MDA Member, Mullengandra  
Wodonga City Council  
Chief Executive Officer – MDA  
Goulburn Mulwaree Council  
Urana Shire  
Economic Dev & Tourism Manager – Wakool Shire  
Member  
Dir of Engineering – Albury City  
Indigo Shire  
Greater Hume Shire  
Mayor Towong Shire

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#### 1.2 Apologies

Geoff Lewis  
Bede Meecham  
The Hon Sussan Ley MP  
Ray Stubbs  
Cr Rodney Wangman  
Cr Stuart Herriott  
Greg Aplin MP

Engineer – Corowa  
Member  
Member for Farrer, Minister for Health  
Chief Executive Officer RAMROC  
Mayor - Wodonga  
...  
Member for Albury

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**Motion:** That apologies be accepted

D. Thurley/A Urqhart - Carried

### 2. WELCOME

#### 2.1 Albury City – Mayor's welcome

Cr Kevin Mack, Mayor welcomed members and guests of Region 1 to Albury City. Cr Mack welcomed the MDA to its new offices, now located on the third floor of the Albury City Council, and acknowledged the attendance of A Wells, wishing him well in his recovery.  
Cr Mack spoke of the Albury 2030 Plan, and of the work contained Flood Plain Management study

undertaken by Albury City. In reflecting on the importance of the work before the MDA in representing local communities, Cr Mack noted that Ray Stubbs of RAMROC is scheduled to meet with the MDBA to discuss the recommendations of the expert panel following the *Review of the Water Act 2007*. He concluded by noting the importance of a strong voice of the MDA on local issues, and affirmed the support of Albury City Council.

## 2.2 Chair, Region 1

Darryl Jacob – Welcomed members and guests and declared the meeting open.

## 3. MINUTES

The last meeting held in Beechworth on .... Have not been recorded.

**Motion:** That it be noted that the minutes of the last R1 meeting at Beechworth, on [date], 2014 have not been recorded.  
D Chambers/D Thurley - carried

## 4. BUSINESS ARISING

Correspondence has been sent in response to all 2014 AGM resolutions.

A basin-wide position on Unconventional Gas was also adopted re Motion 7, and a copy of the policy wording is attached.

## 5. REPORTS

### 5.1 Darry Jacob Chair

Darryl noted that this will be his last year in the chair and foreshadowed his retirement. Darryl invited Adrian Wells, Manager of Upper Catchments to address the meeting.

Adrian tabled a report (attached) and spoke briefly to it. Adrian received congratulations on the publication of the book "Up and Doing", and many well wishes for his continuing recovery.

*\*\* Item 6 to the agenda was brought forward and the presentation made here.*

### 5.3 Emma Bradbury CEO

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report (attached).

Bill McDonald read from a letter from Brian Grogan, previously Chair of the Foundation Committee, outlining a number of concerns.

The CEO responded to questions and confirmed that

- i) The Board had directed a review and audit of all MDA and MDF operations and finances in 2014.
- ii) The CEO had met and communicated by phone with Chairman Brian Grogan in Adrian's absence to get a better understanding of the Foundation's operations, management processes and objectives. Had also arranged for the accountant and auditor to meet with Mr Grogan in Mildura by way of further engagement.
- iii) Brian met with the board of the MDA at Swan Hill in February 2015.
- iv) Brian remained frustrated by the process and unhappy with the outcomes.
- v) Brian Grogan resigned as Chairman of the Foundation, and notified the Board of the resignation of several other board members.
- vi) Cr Oscar Aertssen, Chairman R3 is currently interim Chair of the Foundation.

**Motion:** That the record reflects that the Committee of the Murray Darling Foundation resigned  
D Chambers/A McLeish carried

The CEO concluded her report by thanking the Mayor, GM and the staff of the Albury City Council for their wonderful support following the negotiation of a very favorable lease arrangement that has seen the MDA Albury office now located on the third floor of the city offices, next door to RAMROC. The MDA

membership and executive are delighted with the move, and look forward to a long and productive tenancy in what is a terrific location close to key partners and the great team at ACC.

**Motion:** That the reports be accepted

T Quinn/D Thurley - Carried

## **6. GUEST PRESENTATIONS**

- 6.1** Gary Kerr  
Economic Development and Tourism Manager  
Wakool Shire  
Topic – **Water Impacted Communities Alliance-Transitioning to a New Future**

Presentation attached

## **6.2 GUEST COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

Cr Bob Kirk (Goulburn Mulwaree Council)-Goulburn to Crookwell Rail Trail

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

It was generally acknowledged that the 2014 Conference was terrific, but that the AGM provided some opportunities for improvement in the running of the 2015 AGM, particularly

- Motions to be debated
- Motions to be posted on the 'big screen' to assist and focus debate
- Procedures to run more smoothly
- Chair to manage and facilitate vigorous debate and good process.

### **7.2 Resolutions for the AGM**

Region 1 proposed several topics for consideration to go the AGM

- Fruit fly management options
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Groundwater extraction licenses
- Water pricing impacts
- Proposal for discussion develop a unified Basin-wide position on dredging of the Murray mouth, such as was developed last year on the issue of unconventional gas extraction.

Discussion around the value of motions being scoped out and worked up by member councils with the support of their organizations. Opportunity for collaboration on inter-municipality and regional issues. The great work undertaken in 2014 between several regions in developing a position of unconventional gas was highlighted.

**Motion:** That member councils develop and submit proposed motions to the executive by 1 July 2015 for consideration at the next meeting of R1.

T Quinn/D Thurley carried

### **7.3 AGM Guest Speaker**

The Australian Government has commissioned a White Paper to boost agriculture's productivity and profitability. A taskforce has been established to prepare the White Paper and conduct the consultation.

The White Paper will identify pathways and approaches for growing farm profitability and boosting agriculture's contribution to economic growth, trade, innovation and productivity. The White Paper is set for completion in 2015.

It was suggested that the MDA seek an appropriate speaker to present at the AGM on The Agricultural Competitiveness Whitepaper. Executive to action.

#### **7.4 Recognition A Wells**

Some discussion was had around identifying an appropriate form of recognition for Adrian's contribution to the MDA that could be presented at the AGM. It was proposed that the recognition should be enduring, and connected with his contribution through education.

**Motion:** That the board consider a suitable form of recognition for Adrian's longstanding contribution to the MDA.  
G Martin/F Schirmer - carried

**8 NEXT MEETING:** Region 1 AGM at Towong Shire Council, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015

**9. CLOSE** 1.00pm

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
Albury City Council for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1*