



**Murray Darling Association Inc.  
Region 6 Ordinary Meeting**

# MINUTES

Date: 17 August 2018  
Time: 9.30am for 10am start  
Venue: Large Meeting Room, Alexandrina  
Council, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa

## 1. ATTENDANCE

### 1.1. Present :

#### Voting Members:

Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Tony Wilson (proxy)	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Julie Barrie	Coorong District Council
Cr Clem Schubert	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council

#### Guests:

Vincent Cammell	Coorong District Council
Shen Mann	MDA-R6 Executive Officer
Ian Mann	Private Member Region 5

### 1.2. Apologies:

Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina Council
Frank Tuckwell	Alexandrina Council
Vern Leng	Coorong District Council
Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge

## 2. WELCOME

2.1. **Housekeeping: Fire safety, toilets & catering.**

2.2. **Conflict of interest: Material / Actual / Perceived**

## 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### Resolution

That the minutes of the previous meeting of MDA-R6 held on 15 June 2018 be accepted as a true & correct summary of those meetings.

**Moved – Cr Schubert, Seconded Cr Barrie  
CARRIED**

#### **4. GUEST SPEAKERS**

##### **3.1 Michelle Campbell, Local Engagement Officer, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder**

In response to questions and concerns raised by Cr Schubert at previous meetings, Michelle was invited to speak about the management of return flows from wetland and floodplain environmental watering events, including management of blackwater and salinity impacts.

Michelle's presentation was very well received by those in attendance. Members were interested to hear about the importance of Menindee Lakes and the Lower Darling for South Australian fish stocks and valued the clear explanation of how environmental water is used and reused to support environmental assets along the whole length of the river as it travels down the system toward Region 6 and the Murray Mouth.

##### **3.2 Joanne Pfeiffer, Member of MDBA Basin Community Committee**

Jo was recently reappointed to the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Basin Community Committee (BCC). Jo spoke about her background as an irrigator on the Lower Murray Swamps at Murray Bridge, and her reasons for being involved in the BCC. Jo emphasised the importance of community engagement and grassroots involvement in providing feedback to the MDBA about Basin Plan implementation, and encouraged Region 6 to engage with the newly appointed Regional Engagement Officer, Kate Husband.

Cr Featherston issued an open invitation for Jo to attend future meetings of Region 6 and indicated that local BCC representatives could/should be invited to future inter-regional MDA meetings. Emily Jenke is another local person who was recently appointed to the BCC for the first time. Emily will attend the October 2018 meeting of Region 6.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING**

##### **4.1 Update –Barrages Taskforce**

Anne Liddell, Alexandrina Council

A joint letter from Mayor Parkes of Alexandrina Council, Mayor Jaensch of Coorong District Council and Mayor Lewis from Rural City of Murray Bridge was sent to Minister Speirs on 3 August 2018. The Minister has been asked to advise whether he will consider establishing an intergovernmental taskforce on the future of the Barrages. The letter was also copied to locals MPs Adrian Pederick and David Basham. No response has been received as yet.

Following local government elections in November 2018, Alexandrina will look to host an induction forum for Elected Members of all three councils in February/March 2018 on climate change challenges for the Coorong and Lower Lakes, which will likely include a tour of the Barrages by SA Water. Minister Speirs has been invited to participate in this event.

#### **6. STANDING ITEMS**

##### **6.1. Action List**

Attachment A

Outstanding items from the Action List were reviewed. A revised Action List is attached to these minutes.

## 6.2. CEO's Report

Emma Bradbury

Emma spoke to:

- the program for the upcoming national conference;
- advocacy efforts relating to the need for a revised socio-economic neutrality test which will restore confidence in the Basin Plan and enable a pathway for recovery of the 450GL; and
- discussions on foot to extend the current MOU between the MDBA and MDA.

## 6.3. Chair's Report

Cr Featherston

Cr Featherston noted that MDBA Chair Neil Andrew has expressed his support for being involved in future inter-regional meetings of the MDA in South Australia. Cr Featherston will speak with other SA Chairs about encouraging the LGA to call future meetings, with the aim to hold two per year. The 2019 national conference is being held in Toowoomba and the Board is seeking expressions of interest for 2020. If either Coorong or Murray Bridge are interested to host the 2020 national conference they should seek support from their Councils before submitting an EOI to the Board.

## 6.4. Executive Officer Report

Shen Mann

- Finalised supporting material for Region 6 AGM motions
- Wrote letter to the editor for The Advertiser on behalf of Mayors
- Organised & attended inter-regional meeting at LGA House on 17 July 2018
- Provided content for June edition of MDA newsletter
- Liaised with Courtney Blacker of CommShake Media & Engagement re marketing of MDA Region 6
- Supported meeting of Region 6 Executive – 3 August 2018

## 6.5. Media Comments

All

A joint letter from Mayor Parkes of Alexandrina Council, Mayor Jaensch of Coorong District Council and Mayor Lewis from Rural City of Murray was published in The Advertiser on 21 June 2018. Positive feedback was received by Cr Barrie via her involvement in the CLLMM CAP and via email from the River Lakes & Coorong Action Group.

Mayor Parkes appeared on 891 ABC Radio with David Bevan on 5 August 2018. The program also heard from farmers, a representative of the River Lakes & Coorong Action Group, State Water Minister David Speirs, Professor Sarah Wheeler from the Centre of Global Food and Resources, and Chair of the River Murray Advisory Committee, Peter Duggan.

Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/adelaide/programs/mornings/mornings/10041484>

During the Mayo by-election Rebekha Sharkie issued a media release calling for the establishment of an SA Murray Research Institute. Region 6 Executive is reaching out to her office to invite Ms Sharkie to engage with Region 6 about this initiative.

Link: [http://www.rebekhasharkie.com.au/research\\_institute\\_crucial\\_for\\_resilient\\_river\\_in\\_sa](http://www.rebekhasharkie.com.au/research_institute_crucial_for_resilient_river_in_sa)

### Resolution

That the above reports be accepted.

**Moved Cr Schubert - Seconded Cr Barrie  
CARRIED**

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 7.1. MDA AGM Motions

#### Resolution

That Region 6 Member Council Delegates be encouraged to vote as follows at the 2018 AGM of the Murray Darling Association:

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Support	
2	Abstain	Issue specific to Victoria
3	Support	
4	Support	Advice sought from Jarrod Eaton. Statements contained in key arguments are correct. South Australian has been calling on Victoria to ensure its planning provisions are consistent with Basin Plan objectives.
5	Support	
6	Support	
7	Support	
8	Support	
9	Support	
10	Support subject to amendment	Cr Featherston to write to Chair of Region 4 suggesting an amendment to call for an evaluation of the need for and benefits of creating a National Water Ombudsman
11	Support	
12	Support	
13	Support	
14	Support	
15	Support	
16	Oppose	Advice sought from Jarrod Eaton. These issues are being assessed as a project under the SDL adjustment mechanism. NSW doesn't have a preferred position as yet and will be undertaking a full Environmental Impact Study.
17	Support	
18	TBC	Executive Officer to seek advice from State Government

**Moved Cr Barrie - Seconded Cr Schubert  
CARRIED**

### 7.2. Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission

#### Resolution:

That Region 6:

1. Note the concerning media reports of evidence being put to the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission regarding integrity of the science underpinning Basin Plan water recovery targets;
2. Express the view that these concerns reaffirm the importance of ensuring that all Basin States work together in good faith to prioritise recovery of the 450GL.

**Moved Cr Scott – Seconded Tony Wilson  
CARRIED**

### 7.3. National Carp Control Plan

#### Resolution:

That Region 6:

1. Acknowledge the serious concerns expressed by community within the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong (Region 6) with respect to the water quality, human health and regional amenity risks of releasing a biological carp control virus.
2. Call on the National Carp Control Plan to engage strongly with local governments throughout the Basin to ensure that community concerns and the potential role of local government in any clean-up process are robustly researched and analysed prior to making recommendations to the Federal Government on the best suite of measures to control carp.

**Moved Cr Scott – Seconded Tony Wilson  
CARRIED**

### 7.4. Strategic Directions – Engagement Strategy

#### Resolution

1. That Region 6 adopt the name “Region 6 – Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong”.
2. That for local marketing purposes, Region 6 use the following name and tagline: “Murray to Mouth: Working together to secure a freshwater future for the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong”.
3. That the Region 6 Executive Officer develop related web content, promotional flyer and media release to enable implementation of key actions from the Region 6 Communications and Engagement Plan.

**Moved Cr Barrie – Seconded Tony Wilson  
CARRIED**

### 7.5. Submission – River Murray Water Allocation Plan

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse is currently open for consultation. Submissions are due Friday 14 September 2018.

Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin have presented separately to Alexandrina, Coorong and Murray Bridge councils on the key changes included in the WAP.

The Executive Officer to consider preparation of a brief submission on behalf of Alexandrina, Coorong and Murray Bridge councils and liaise with Mayoral offices to obtain signatures.

### 7.6. Any other business?

ACTION: Shen to draft media release on behalf of three councils re Region 6 resolutions and/or outcomes of National Conference.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

Date & Time: 19 October 2018, 9.30am for 10am start

Location: Coorong District Council, 95-101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend

## 9. CLOSE.