



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Region 9

Leeton Shire Council Chambers, 23-25 Chelmsford Place, Leeton NSW 2705

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 10.30am

### AGENDA

#### 1. WELCOME

1.1 Present – Chair of Region 9 – Cr Paul Maytom (Mayor of Leeton Shire Council) opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked those members of Region 9 for attending.

Cr Paul Maytom	Mayor Leeton Shire Council
Cr John Dal Broi	Mayor Griffith City Council
Cr Ruth McRae	Mayor Murrumbidgee Council
Mrs Joanne Treacy	GM Carrathool Council
Mr Bede Mecham	Life Member
Mr Joe Burns	Private Member
Mr Bede Spannagle	RWCC
Ms Emma Bradbury	CEO MDA (via phone)
Mrs Liz Stott	Regional Engagement Officer MDBA
Mrs Melissa Seymour	EA Leeton Shire Council

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 Declaration of Interest - Cr Maytom called and no declarations were made.

#### 3. APOLOGIES

Cr Rodger Schirmer	Mayor, Lockhart Shire Council
Peter Veneris	GM, Lockhart Shire Council
Greg Verdon	RWCC
Cr Mick Rutledge	Hay Shire Council
Paul Furnell	Wagga Wagga Council
Cr Neville Kschenka	Mayor, Narrandera Shire Council
Cr Wesley Hall	Narrandera Shire Council
Russell Campbell	Carrathool Council
Mrs Jackie Kruger	GM, Leeton Shire Council
Cr Dino Zappacosta	Griffith City Council

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

B Spannagle/B Mecham

CARRIED

#### 4. MINUTES

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Leeton be noted as read and accepted.

J Burns/B Mecham

CARRIED

#### 5. REPORTS FROM REGION 9

5.1 Cr Maytom spoke of the distances all travel to attend these meetings and thanked all for their participation. Due to time constraints handed then over to the CEO of MDA Emma Bradbury.

5.2 Emma provided a verbal report on the current developments for MDA - enquiries into the environmental use of water, submission to the Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR) and the Royal Commission into the Basin Plan. MDA will go to the National Carp Control Plan meeting. Emma spoke about the biological control of the carp virus and the enormous stakeholder engagement being done. Mr Joe Burns noted the story on morning radio today reporting on the disposal of the dead fish.

Emma reported on the upcoming MDA Annual Conference and AGM in Leeton and updated all on sponsors and speakers. Cr Maytom suggested a possible visit to Gogeldrie Weir and Emma mentioned the possibility of also a visit to Griffith. Mr Bede Spannagle sought clarification on the date motions must be submitted for the conference. CEO MDA confirmed one month and one week.

The 450GL motion should go up for the conference today. Seeking clarification and understanding on the calculation of the 450GL and how it is achieved and the socio economic impact it has had on some of the Region 9 communities.

Moved by Joe Burns and second by John Dal Broi.

#### 6. PRESENTATION

6.1 Elizabeth Stott REO MDBA provided Region 9 with an update of the Basin Plan – slides attached.

Overall it was noted that Region 9 has withstood the impacts of the Basin Plan relatively well as a result of the on farm and off farm infrastructure.

Strengthening of the basin communities funding was raised by Liz in response to the statement made by Joanne Treacy about promises made to the communities. Liz noted funding would come from the Federal Government.

Mr Bede Mecham made reference to the MDBA media release of 7 May 2018 and read paragraph to meeting. Liz Stott explained the paragraph stipulating that the wording is driven for the media and spoke of the capital factors and relationship with water recovery.

**MOTION:** That Leeton Shire Council and the Murray Darling Association write to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the New South Wales Department of Industry and Water – Murrumbidgee Stakeholder Advisory Panel seeking a detailed briefing on planning

assumptions and the likely recoverable amount.

B Mecham/J Burns

CARRIED

Liz Stott advised that she will finish in the REO role with MDBA on 30 June 2018. Cr Maytom and Cr John Dal Broi both acknowledge the tremendous contribution and knowledge she has brought to the role. Emma Bradbury invited Liz to take up a membership with MDA which LSC could possibly sponsor.

**MOTION:** That Region 9:

- a) Retains Liz Stott as a member on an interim basis until the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's new Regional Engagement Officer is appointed; and
- b) Calls on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to utilize Liz Stott's knowledge to assist with the transition to the MDBA's new REO.

B Spannagle/B Mecham

CARRIED

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Cr Maytom commended the MDA on the quality of their submission to the Productivity Commission. Emma Bradbury commented on the three levels of government in Australia (Federal, State and Local) and that Local Government is not greatly recognised and noted that the MDA will remain on the stakeholder advisory group.

7.2 Cr Maytom noted concern from the December 2017 meeting on how the 450 GL is calculated – how can it be achieved without effecting the community? It is important to understand prior to implementation and monitor once implemented. Emma Bradbury suggested that States may not be committed to achieve the 450GL and the MDBA shift in appetite with respect to communities and the socioeconomic impact.

**MOTION:** That Region 9 proposed the following motion to the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting:

That the Murray Darling Association advocates for an agreed and equitable definition of socioeconomic neutrality to be incorporated into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

J Dal Broi/Cr Maytom

CARRIED

Cr Maytom spoke about PIOP and stressed that there is a need for more information to consider to see just how effective and efficient these programs are. Cr Maytom motioned to notifying the appropriate body and Cr Dal Broi asked the question of where these enquiries should go to?

Moved by Cr Maytom and second by Cr Dal Broi.

A second motion was raised by Emma Bradbury that MDA will write to MDBA and Dept of Agriculture asking for a collaborative education program for southern basin regarding the 450GL on how it is calculated and the socio economic impact on communities.

Moved by CEO MDA and second by Cr Maytom.

Cr McRae noted again the importance of the role of the REO for MDBA and that the changeover at the end of June needs to be effective and stressed the importance of knowledge of the new person.

Cr Maytom spoke about page 11 of Murray-Darling Basin Authority Register of Measures document and noted that we as a local community need to understand. Cr Maytom recommended that all should look at the register of measures 23, 24, 25, 35 that affect Region 9.

**MOTION:** That Region 9 proposed the following motion to the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting:

That the Murray Darning Association seeks a detailed briefing from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Water NSW in relation to the registering of measures 23, 24, 25 and 34 outlined in the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Register of Measures document.

R McRae/B Mecham

CARRIED

Mr Bede Mecham raised the issue about the 62GL being recovered by June 2019 and asked the question what projects will achieve this? Cr Maytom noted that the 35 projects currently in place should achieve this. Bede Mecham spoke on water shares still held across three States and four areas.

**MOTION:** That the Murray Darling Association supplies statistics regarding the volume of water shares held by the States located within the Murray-Darling Basin at Board and Regional meetings.

B Mecham/J Burns

CARRIED

7.3 Cr Maytom asked for Councils to discuss their priorities and to send them through to Region 9 secretariat. Priorities can be noted on the next meeting's agenda.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

To coincide with the 74<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Annual General Meeting, occurring at Leeton from the 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of August.

## **9. CLOSE**

Chair, Cr Paul Maytom closed meeting and thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 12.15pm

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