



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

463 High Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

3rd Floor, 553 Kiewa Street
P.O. Box 359
Albury, NSW 2640

Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: 11 August 2023 Start Time: 10.30am

Location: Councillors Meeting Room, Albury City Council,

Address: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council -Chairman Region 1
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Mayor Indigo Shire Council
Geoff Lucas	Private
Cr Aaron Nichols	Federation Council (via MS Teams)
Cr David Wortmann	Towong Shire
Cecilia Burke	MDBA
Greg Whorlow	Albury City Council
Bree Chambeyron	Field Officer, Inspector-General of Water Compliance
Mark Lamb	MDA - CEO

1.2 Apologies

Cr Julia Ham	Snowy Valleys Council
Hon Sussan Ley MP	Member for Farrer
Brad Ferris	Albury City Council
Andrew Lawson	Albury City Council
Adrian Butler	CEO Federation Council
Yvonne Lingua	CEO RAMJO
John Forsyth	Mayor Alpine Shire Council

Moved: Greg Whorlow

Seconded: Geoff Lucas

That the apologies be received and noted.

CARRIED

1.3 Declarations

Nil

2 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Cr David Wortman

Seconded: Greg Whorlow

That the minutes from previous meeting held on 2 June 2023 be received and noted with an addition and amendment:

5.1 Indigo – Cr Bernard Gaffney

Sunday Creek *Reconfiguration Project – pipe water out* of Murray is not

CARRIED

4. GUEST PRESENTATION

The Chair Cr Thurley introduced Andrew Cooper – Manager, Operations – Reconnecting River Country Program, Water Infrastructure NSW, Department of Planning and Environment.

Andrew gave an overview of the Reconnection River Country program. (Presentation attached).

For your information, Andrew has also emailed the link below for inundation mapping:

[Reconnecting River Country | Department of Planning and Environment | Community Analytics \(caportal.com.au\)](https://reconnectingrivercountry.com.au)

Andrew then answered questions from the attendees and took a couple of questions on notice and will email through the answers.

The Chair thanked Andrew for his presentation and asked Andrew to stay for the remainder of meeting which concluded with a light lunch.

5. CURRENT ISSUES FROM REGION 1 COUNCILS

5.1 **Indigo – Cr Bernard Gaffney**
Nil.

5.2 **Towong - Cr David Wortmann**
Nil.

5.3 **Federation – Cr Aaron Nichols**
Quite frustrating and costly for Council with the recent releases washing away recent new plantings.

Andrew Cooper left the meeting at 11.27 am whilst a proposed motion was discussed.

Proposed motion for MDA Conference to be held 27 & 28 September. Copy attached.

The committee endorsed the motion.

Andrew Cooper returned to the meeting at 11.30 pm.

5.4 Albury – Cr David Thurley

Has been asked to participate in an interview with IPSOS who have been engaged by DCCEEW to provide a report exploring water management.

It is disappointing that the Government is paying IPSOS and then asked the MDA to give advice for free. It would be nice for MDA given their knowledge in this regard to receive funding instead of relying solely on membership.

5.5 Snowy Valleys Council –did not attend

6. CEO'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION

- Mark Lamb spoke on his report and can be read here: <https://www.mda.asn.au/newsletters>.
- Focused on membership with Regions 7 & 11 particularly interested in possibly joining.
- Calling for motions for this year's Conference and would like them to be in as soon as possible.
- Minister Plibersek will be speaking at the MDA Conference in Murray Bridge SA from 25-28 September. Other speakers include Dr Simon Banks from the CEHW and Deputy Inspector General Danial Blacker.
- Registration and Civic Reception – 25 September
- Site visit – 26 September
- Conference – 27 and 28 September

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Thurley referred to his participation in the Productivity Commission's MDB Plan inquiry working group committee and asked for any feedback to be given to him so he can raise it at the next meeting.

David Thurley to source a speaker for the Dartmouth Pumped Hydro Proposal at Geoff Lucas' request.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting was closed 11.46 am. Next meeting of Region 1 will be the AGM and held on 10 November 2023