



Region 11 Ordinary Meeting

AGENDA

Location: Via ZOOM
Time/date: Following directly after the Region 11 AGM - Thursday 11 June 2020
Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/91726344373?pwd=VldmNEExmalJBcGJ4ZDdCYnZiL0NrUT09>
Meeting ID: 917 2634 4373
Password: 019793

1. **ATTENDANCE**
 - 1.1 Present:
 - 1.2 Apologies:
2. **WELCOME**
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
4. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous [meeting](#)
5. **REPORTS**
 - 5.1 CEO's reports [online](#)
 - 5.2 MDA Board Meeting (398) [Minutes](#)
 - 5.3 MDBA Update – Annabelle Guest
6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - 6.1 Motion submissions for the Murray Darling Association AGM
 - 6.2 Regional submissions for the MDA Board Agenda
 - 6.3 Climate Ready Communities – See Attachment
 - 6.4 Monthly Delegates Report
7. **PRESENTATION**
 - 6.1 Nil
7. **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**
8. **CLOSE**

Region 11 Climate Ready Statement

Region 11 would be one of the most diverse in the Basin. It's topography ranges from the rolling hills on the eastern side to the flat plains on the west. The makeup of the various LGA's in the region also varies with the larger cities of Armidale and Tamworth down to the smaller towns of Bingara, Walgett, Brewarrina, Walcha etc.

The topography lends itself to extremes in climate also with the freezing winters in the east to the rather hot summers in the west. Obviously the climate then affects the agricultural opportunities in each of the various LGA's. We have hydroponic tomatoes in Armidale, Citrus in Gunnedah, Pecan nuts in Moree and so on.

As well as the agricultural economy there is also mining and tourism which all lend themselves to the prosperity or not of the region. The region has limited catchments for the rivers which flow through it with what could also be construed as limited reservoirs/dams for the retention of the flows for irrigation, critical human needs and environmental use.

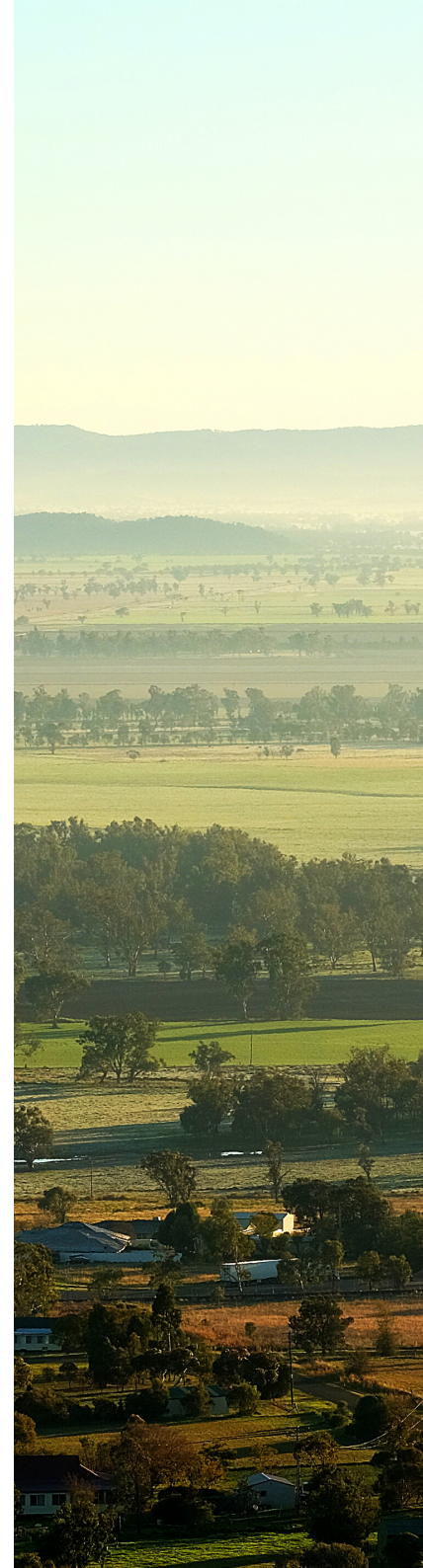
Key Issues and Priorities for the Region

1. Future availability of water supplies - obviously the main focus here is that for irrigation purposes, as most economies in the region rely heavily upon the agricultural industries and the associated supporting businesses. Also relying heavily on the supply of water are the townships downstream. To a lesser extent tourism and recreational activities also are reliant on the flows. Inconsistencies in the water restrictions definitions etc are also of concern. As we cover a large part of the Great Artesian Basin and rely heavily on surface water we are also reliant on recharges to the aquifers the groundwater users utilise.

2. Lack of action or what appear to be "misdecisions" on behalf of legislators/regulators - water which could be used to grow fodder used as "environmental flows". Here our worries are the fact that we have had serious droughts/bushfires/floods before and we have not learned from our experiences and put the necessary improved measures in place. "Drought is broken" politicians forget very quickly.

3. "Anti" sentiment towards CSG. This region has tremendous reserves of CSG available (no fracking required). Some of which is being utilised by Santos to boost the electricity supply at Narrabri. The water which comes from the ground with the gas is, (after being passed through a reverse osmosis process) used to irrigate pasture which is, in turn used to make fodder for animal consumption.

4. Risk management issues such as loss of human life, Council assets, financial loss, reputational risk, legal issues etc.



Region 11 Commitment to Action

1. Renewable Energy Sources - already we have seen a start in this regard with Solar and Wind Farms having been approved and built in various LGA's.

2. As in 3 above **CSG could be used to generate base load power.** It is an extremely clean method of doing so.

3. **Carbon sequestration** can be done in one of two ways:- i) increasing soil carbon. There are various ways of doing this, or ii) growth of plantation type timbers. Once established these areas can also be utilised for grazing purposes.

4. Regular **review and testing of the region's Councils Disaster Management Plans.**

