



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Minutes of Meeting No. 94 of Region 7 (Greater Adelaide) On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 at West Torrens Council 165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Hilton 5033

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Mayor John Trainer	West Torrens Council
Cr Peter Jamieson	Region 7 Chair, Port Adelaide Enfield Council
Cr Arthur Mangos	Deputy Chair, West Torrens Council
Pauline Frost	Deputy Chair
Cr Lynda Yates	Secretary, Holdfast Bay Council
Cr Robin Coleman	Tea Tree Gully Council
Cr Garth Palmer	West Torrens Council
Cr Shirley Halls	Playford Council
Cr Carol Musyk	Playford Council
Cr Nick Greer	Mitcham Council
Cr John Kennedy	Campbelltown Council
Cr David Shetliffe	Walkerville Council
Thornton Harfield	Tea Tree Gully Council
Gary Golland	
Frank Verrall	

#### 1.2 Apologies

Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg	Onkaparinga Council
Vickie Chapman	MP
Cr John Kemp	Adelaide Hills Council
Cr Andrew Tilley	Mitcham Council
Ray Najar	

### 2. WELCOME

#### 2.1 Mayor's welcome

Mayor John Trainer welcomed the group and gave a tour of the new Council Chambers.

### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The last meeting was held on 20/05/15 at Campbelltown Council

**Motion:** That the minutes of the last Region 7 meeting be accepted.

Frank Verrall / Arthur Mangos – Carried

#### 4. PRESENTATION

##### **Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) by Andrew King, Engineering Services Co-ordinator, West Torrens Council (Powerpoint presentation available on request to Lynda Yates – size is 14,500KB)**

West Torrens Council is a leader in WSUD. WSUD means managing water in the urban environment in a way that minimises the negative impacts of urbanization and maximizes the economic, social and environmental benefits – green space, flood management, urban temperature and pollution reduction. Key tools are development controls, raingardens (bio-filtration systems) and recycled water networks.

The aim is to improve the quality of stormwater with regard to nitrogen, phosphorus, suspended solids, litter and gross pollutants. Nitrogen and phosphorus can increase blue-green algae which reduces seagrasses in the ocean due to decreased light penetration. Stormwater quantity is managed at source and is distributed to mitigate the necessity for future major stormwater infrastructure upgrades. Localised stormwater is harvested and reused. Active reuse means there is benefit as the water moves through the system whilst passive reuse emphasized water storage.

The first WSUD was in Brooker Tce with raingardens. These are streetscape or property scale biofiltration systems. They are becoming easier to do as the staff get used to the concept and are now quite simple to install.

New building developments build on a maximum 60% of a site but impermeable surfaces may cover 100% so nature strips on streets are now very important for water absorption. WSUD should be liveable, sustainable, resilient and productive. The Adelaide Parklands cool the city – in the early hours of a March morning they can be up to 10°C cooler than the city streets.

A new body called Water Sensitive SA has been formed by the NRM Board and others and has a Capacity Building Program to encourage WSUD with grants.

A raingarden has a pipe to take water from a side-entry pit in the gutter to a water well topped by gravel, fine sand, sandy soil and plants which draw the water up through their roots. Water wells one metre wide run the whole length of the raingarden (at a cost of \$5000 per 3-4 m). Low vegetation and/or trees are planted in raingardens. There can be a 90% decrease in manual watering of plants. There was concern that heavy metals would accumulate in raingarden soil over time but 10 - 15-year-old raingardens only appear to be 7 years old on measuring the heavy metals in the soil so the plants must use or store them. Raingardens have a 'Lego Block design' to make them repeatable, integrated and scalable. The first raingardens were created by engineering staff and their usage has spread to the Environmental Department. There are fact sheets, mail-outs, information signs and information events to tell the community about WSUD.

26 WSUD sites now exist in the council area and 6 more are being developed. West Torrens claims to be Australia's first retrofitted water-sensitive suburb. Some streets have a side-entry pit for a tree in front of each house and the trees are growing twice as fast as those elsewhere.

In carparks, permeable paving is being used to avoid spoon drains eg. Council car park. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing grants for Raingarden 500, a scheme that will last for 3 years.

Raingardens not only help plants to grow but also reduce the flow of water along gutters which not only reduces kerb maintenance costs but also reduces the risk of flooding. This is demonstrated by a hydrograph which shows that water on hard surfaces flows very fast while that on softer or permeable surfaces is much slower.

WSUD is not cheap – one hour of work and \$2500 is required to plant a tree with a tree pit. The tree is established for 12-18 months before watering is reduced but then it flourishes and grows quickly. Road and kerb maintenance costs are also much lower with WSUD.

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING

None

### Suspension of meeting for Annual General Meeting of Region 7 MDA

## 6. AGM

### 6.1 Present (as above)

### 6.2 Apologies (as above)

### 6.3 Minutes of Last AGM

The last AGM was held on 24/07/14 at Port Adelaide Enfield Council

**Motion:** That the minutes of the last Region 7 AGM be accepted.

John Kennedy / Arthur Mangos – Carried

### 6.4 Chair's Report

See attached report.

### 6.5 Election of Officers for Region 7

6.5.1 Chair Peter Jamieson (proposed Lynda Yates / Arthur Mangos) **elected unopposed**

6.5.2 Deputy Chairs Pauline Frost (proposed Lynda Yates / John Kennedy) **elected unopposed**  
Arthur Mangos (proposed Pauline Frost / Lynda Yates) **elected unopposed**

6.5.3 Secretary Lynda Yates (proposed Pauline Frost / John Kennedy) **elected unopposed**

### Resumption of General Meeting

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 7.1 Motions for National AGM

There was some discussion of excessive New Zealand fur seal numbers in Region 6, but it was decided to support Region 6 if they put up a motion for this rather than put one ourselves.

There was also comment about the proposed golf tournament at the conference but it was decided not to put a motion about this.

7.1.1 **Motion:** That Ray Najar be given life membership of the MDA.

Arthur Mangos / Pauline Frost – Carried

7.1.2 **Motion:** That representation from each region remain the same. As each region has its own issues and, with effective internet communication between members, the status quo should remain.

John Kennedy / Arthur Mangos – Carried

7.1.3 **Motion:** That private membership be retained and encouraged as it is a valuable source of expertise and active volunteers for the MDA, a resource not to be ignored.

John Kennedy / Arthur Mangos – Carried

**8. MURRAY DARLING FOUNDATION** - Tax deductible donations are being received from members to purchase water licences for future investment for the Foundation. Other projects include the Save the Murray and Save the Darling Websites that you can be freely accessed by students for projects related to the Murray Darling Association.

**9. NEXT MEETINGS:**

71<sup>st</sup> AGM and National Conference to be held in Berrigan Shire, 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. The theme for this year's conference is '**It's in the balance**'.

**Playford Council in early Oct**

**Holdfast Bay in Dec**

**Tea Tree Gully in New Year**

**10. CLOSE 9.30pm**

**Secretary Lynda Yates [lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:lyates@holdfast.sa.gov.au) ; Mob 0417 484 717**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
West Torrens Council for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 7.*

Chairperson Report

Annual General Meeting

Murray Darling Association Region 7 (Adelaide Metropolitan)

Date : 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015

I would like to thank our members for their attendance at Region 7 Meetings in the 2014/15 financial year, and the Councils who hosted the Meetings - Holdfast, Campbelltown and West Torrens.

I am always impressed by the high quality of discussion that occurs at our meetings and the interest our members have for water issues in the Murray Darling Basin. This was also acknowledged by both the President, Greg Toll, and the new CEO, Emma Bradbury, after they attended the recent Region 7 at the Campbelltown Council.

I would like to thank the Region 7 committee for their ongoing support, and especially Lynda Yates who is setting up and minuting the meetings.

I also thank those members who attended the Murray Darling Association (MDA) National Conference in Tumut in 2014.

Tonight I welcome the many new members and I will give them the opportunity to introduce themselves later in the meeting.

I am concerned that the long term member Marion Council has decided to not renew its membership. I was invited by the Marion Council to speak about the MDA at a workshop, prior to the Council decision which I am told was a close one.

In another close decision, the Mitcham Council has decided to join the MDA.

The MDA will always need financial support from Councils, so Region 7 should be making sure that we satisfy our customers and that we have sympathetic Councillor Ambassadors in all metropolitan Councils.

In this financial year, the MDA Office was moved to Echuca, which is on the Murray River in Victoria. Although it has been very convenient for Region 7 to have the MDA Office in Adelaide for many years, I supported the move of the Office to a more central location in the Murray Darling Basin. The office has been operating in Echuca for some time now and the official opening is tomorrow. I will be driving overnight to Echuca to attend the opening and a Board Meeting.

The MDA now has a new CEO and Emma has shown herself to be a good operator during the changeover. She is a Councillor of the Campaspe Shire in Victoria.

There a number of issues relating to the MDA and the Murray Darling Basin which I would like to highlight.

Rainfall has been low in the Basin and an El Nino is being predicted. There is a serious shortage of water in the Menindee Lakes and there has been a big focus by irrigators on the Murray Darling Plan and the allocation of the so called "wasted environment water". A Federal Government enquiry has been initiated to consider the concerns of the irrigators.

Of concern to the Adelaide metropolitan area (and SA) is that we do not want high levels of salt in the drinking water it takes from the Murray.

There is an ongoing concern that land is being sold to overseas companies. This is often not allowed in other countries.

We need to continue to monitor the concerns of, and support when in agreeance, the other regions in SA. Region 6 has a major issue with an increasing fur seal population and rising salt levels in parts of its region.

Hopefully many Region 7 members will attend the MDA National Conference which will be hosted by the Berrigan Shire Council in September 2015.

Thank you again for your support of the MDA and Region 7 in 2014/15.