



73rd National Conference & Annual General Meeting

11-13 October 2017

Renmark Hotel Conference Rooms

Renmark SA



OUR PLAN **OUR FUTURE**





The 73rd National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Murray Darling Association will be held in Renmark South Australia 11-13 October 2017.

The theme of the conference is:

OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE.

The key role of local government is to plan for the future of our local communities, ensuring that our resources are managed in a responsible, sustainable way. And there are no more important resources than those shared among the councils and communities of the Murray-Darling Basin.

We recognise that the future of our communities is in our hands. Local government, the members of the MDA and the Basin community must plan and work together with our state and federal colleagues, developing strategies, making decisions, and delivering projects that provide for a strong and healthy future.

Snowy 2.0, The Basin Plan, SDL adjustments, efficiency measures and supply projects. These are all strategies, decisions and projects that must meet the needs and the expectations of our nation now and into the future. To ensure the success of these projects, local government must take an active role in the planning by sharing local knowledge.

As the third level of government in Australia and the one most directly connected and engaged with the people we represent, local government has a key role in informing **OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE.**



WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017

8:00 am	Conference Registration	
9:00 am	Conference Opens Welcome and overview of the Day	Cr David Thurley <i>National President MDA</i>
	Welcome to Country	First Nation Elder
	Welcome to Renmark Paringa Council	Mayor Neil Martinson <i>Renmark Paringa Council</i>
9:30 am	Opening Address	Introduction by The Hon Ian Hunter MLC <i>Minister for Water and the River Murray</i> The Hon Anne Ruston <i>Senator for South Australia</i> <i>Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources</i>
10:00 am	Planning for Change Challenges and Opportunities for Local Government Basin Plan 2017-2020	Mayor David O'Loughlin <i>President</i> <i>Australian Local Government Association</i>
10:30 am	MORNING TEA	
11:00 am	Snowy Hydro Limited The Plan for Snowy 2.0 Engineering water and energy security	Andrew Nolan <i>Manager of Water and Environment</i> <i>Snowy Hydro Limited</i>
11:45 am	Our Future at Work Student Presentation	Kingston on Murray Primary School
12:00 noon	Murray Darling Basin Authority Basin Plan Assessment 2017	Colin Mues <i>Chief Economist</i> <i>Murray Darling Basin Authority</i>
12:30 pm	LUNCH	
1:15 pm	Investments in On Farm Efficiencies Infrastructure and Technologies.	Paul Morris <i>First Assistant Secretary</i> <i>Dept of Agriculture and Water Resources</i>
1:45 pm	National Carp Control Plan	Matt Barwick <i>Coordinator for the National Carp Control Plan</i> <i>Fisheries Research & Development Corp.</i>
2:30 pm	Government's role in supporting and responding to new and emerging trends in industry and agriculture	Neale Bennett <i>Chairman</i> <i>Almond Board of Australia</i>
3:00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3:30 pm	Opportunities for structural adjustment to local economies – the policy and the practice	Gary Kerr <i>Economic Development Coordinator</i> <i>Balonne Shire Council</i> Michael Cutting <i>Principal Project Officer – Land and Water</i> <i>Management, Natural Resources SA</i> Ben Fee <i>Manager, Agribusiness Initiatives</i> <i>Primary Industries and Regions SA</i>
4:30 pm	Presentation of motions on notice	Cr David Thurley, National President MDA
4:45 pm	Close	
6:00 pm	CIVIC RECEPTION 23rd Street Distillery	Renmark Paringa Council

THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2017

9:00 am – 4:15 pm	Partners Tour – The Flavour Safari	<i>Leaving from the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre</i>
9:00 am	Effective stakeholder engagement: Building a shared vision for the future for Basin communities.	Robbie Sefton <i>Founder and Managing Director Seftons</i>
9:30 am	The role of the barrages in achieving Basin Plan targets and outcomes. Panel Session This lively and informative session will see the leaders in their field discuss the role of the barrages – exploring the purpose, function and relevance of the five separate structures from the operational, scientific, political and community perspectives. An open Q&A will ensure the audience discovers everything you ever wanted to know but were too afraid to ask about these sometimes contentious and often misunderstood structures in our managed River system	Andrew Reynolds <i>Executive Director River Management Murray Darling Basin Authority</i> Tim Whetstone MP <i>Member for Chaffey</i> Bruce G Thom BA (Hons), PhD <i>Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists</i> Emma Bradbury <i>CEO, Murray Darling Association</i> Andrew Beal <i>Director of River Murray Operations Dept of Environment, Water and Natural Resources</i> Host: Ashley Bland <i>Senior Manager Environment, Skillset</i>
11:00 am	MORNING TEA	
11:30 am	Our Future at Work Student presentation	Barmera Primary School
11:45 am	M+S Group Accounting Farming in the Basin – Accounting for family futures	Pete George <i>Senior Partner</i>
12:00 noon	Enabling regional adaptation in NSW: state and local government working together	Melinda Hillery <i>Senior Project Officer, Climate Change Adaption, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage</i>
12:30 pm	LUNCH	
1:15 pm	Basin round-up	Murray Darling Association
1:30 pm	MDA National Conference 2018 Host council presentation	Leeton Shire Council <i>Region 9 Murrumbidgee Riverina</i>
2:00 pm	The science of better planning	Nicole Emara <i>Business Development Manager, CSIRO Land and Water Flagship Adaptive Social and Economic Systems Research Program</i>
2:30 pm	Making Every Drop Count Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	David Papps <i>Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder</i>
3:00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3:30 pm	Murray Darling Association 73rd Annual General Meeting	<i>Welcome</i> Cr Peter Hunter – Chair, R5
5:00 pm	Close	
6:30 pm	ANNUAL GALA DINNER Renmark Club	<i>Sponsored by M+S Group Accounting</i>

After dinner
guest speaker:
accomplished
young river man
JACKSON WICKHAM
Australia Day Young Person
of the Year 2015
SA Santos Regional
Service Award 2017

FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2017

8:30am – 4:15pm	Riverlands Study Tour – MDA Region 5 Departs Visitor Information Centre, Murray Ave, Renmark.	<i>Locations include:</i> • Chowilla Regulator • Calperum Station • Lunch on the picturesque Ral Ral Creek Riverbank • Renmark Irrigation Trust • Bert Dix Park & Lock 5.
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RIVERLANDS STUDY TOUR MDA REGION 5

We of the Riverland are proud of our community and its achievements. We are grateful for the cooperation between all levels of government, local irrigators and the community as a whole for their efforts to build the Social, Economic and Environmental Foundations for our unique and special region. We hope that you will consider joining us for the 2017 Study Tour.

9am Leave Visitor Information Centre

Murray Avenue, Renmark (Opposite Renmark Hotel)

10:00 Chowilla Regulator

This is in the region touted in 1968 for the Chowilla Dam and you will be able to see the vast areas that would have been inundated, should that plan have been enacted. We will visit the newly installed regulator and hear from senior personnel about how this enables flow regulation along the Chowilla Creek.

11:15 Calperum Station

This station is the centre for managing the vast areas of the Bookmark (Riverland) Biosphere, covering some 9,000km². Scientist Peter Cale will show us some of the Landscape Management projects and scientific research being undertaken. See some of the incredible changes that have been made with a landscape that was decimated with overstocking and its gradual rehabilitation, with groups travelling many hundreds of kilometres to assist with the management plans and actions.

11:45 Lunch

On the picturesque Ral Ral Creek Riverbank.

1:15 Renmark Irrigation Trust

Visit and hear how this grower owned irrigation group has partnered with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Renmark Paringa Council to deliver environmental water through RIT pipelines to irrigate and rehabilitate local wetlands – all funded by the CEWH. Hear about how this links with Council development plans and the integration of these three bodies within our SEE Renmark 2020 Planning. Find out also about their efficiency measures over many years and how these have assisted growers and our river system.

2:00 Bert Dix Park and Lock 5

Visit this beautiful area and hear about the installation of both regulators and fish-ways to provide irrigation certainty for growers as well as assist fish passage and manage water flows. Then a visit to Lock 5, (which is close by) enables us to view and understand some of the history behind these structures and the planning/benefits around weir pool raising.

3:40 Finish at the Visitor Information Centre

Murray Avenue, Renmark.

This will conclude the Conference Activities but please consider extending your time in the Riverland of South Australia.

THE FLAVOUR SAFARI PARTNER'S TOUR

SMELL - LOOK - TASTE - LISTEN - FEEL

From dirt to the dish, taste the best produce and beverages the Riverland has to offer!

Get the chance to meet the growers, brewers, winemakers, distillers and producers of our district and experience a personalised behind the scenes tour of what goes into making the region's produce so good!

The Flavour Safari tour is being offered exclusively to partners of those attending the

Partner's tour includes:

- Mallee Estate Wines
- 23rd Street Distillery
- Almondco
- Sunfresh
- Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery

Murray Darling Association 73rd Annual General Meeting and National Conference in Renmark, South Australia.

Departing from the Renmark Paringa Visitor Centre at 9am, the Flavour Safari offers you an all round Riverland tasting experience that you will savour for years to come.

Numbers are limited, so book early through www.mda.asn.au to avoid disappointment!

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Detailed speaker biographies are available at www.mda.asn.au



IAN HUNTER MLC

Minister for Water and the River Murray

Minister Hunter was born in Broken Hill and was first elected to the South Australian Legislative Council in 2006 and became a Minister in 2011. Ian's policy interests include science and science education, climate change and environmental sustainability, reconciliation and social justice.



CR DAVID O'LOUGHLIN

President, Australian Local Government Association

Cr O'Loughlin has been a Councillor in metropolitan Adelaide since 2003. David has served as president of the Local Government Association of South Australia and in November 2016 was elected president of the Australian Local Government Association.



COLIN MUES

Chief Economist, Murray-Darling Basin Authority

In 2017 Colin Mues is leading the evaluation of the first five years of Basin Plan implementation. He previously worked for the Department of the Environment and ABARES. He grew up in Barham, and has Economics qualifications from the Australian National University.



PAUL MORRIS

First Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Paul Morris has been a professional public servant in the agricultural, fisheries, forestry and resources areas for more than 30 years. Paul is a previous executive director of ABARES and executive manager in the trade division of DAFF. He has also served at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC.



BRUCE THOM BA (HONS), PHD

Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

Bruce Thom holds the title of Emeritus Professor from the University of Sydney. He is a founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. In 2010 Professor Thom was awarded a member of the Order of Australia for his contributions to the environment.



ASHLEY BLAND

Senior Manager Environment, Skillset

Born into a farming family, Ashley trained as an engineer and worked in the mining and agricultural industries during his early career. Now working as Senior Manager Environment for Skillset, Ashley assists individuals and organisations with energy, waste and landscape management.



ANNE RUSTON

Senator for South Australia Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Anne Ruston has been a Senator since 2012 and was elected Senior Deputy Government Whip in the Senate in 2014. Born and raised in Renmark, Anne is a proud member of the community where she still lives and works to this day. Anne is a farmer herself, producing commercial cut flowers.

ANDREW NOLAN

Manager of Water and Environment, Snowy Hydro Limited

Andrew Nolan has held management and leadership roles in natural resource management for 16 years. He has worked for Snowy Hydro since 2003 and has been in his current role since 2011. Andrew holds a degree in Landscape Studies from Kingston University in London.



GARY KERR

Economic Development Coordinator, Balonne Shire Council

Gary Kerr has led numerous workforce and economic development initiatives throughout the Basin. Most recently he has developed structural adjustment programs for the Wakool and Balonne Shire communities impacted by water buybacks.



MATT BARWICK

Coordinator for the National Carp Control Plan, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Matt Barwick has worked in fisheries research and management with state and federal government, and later as an independent consultant over the past 20 years. Matt is currently leading the development of the National Carp Control Plan, which seeks to manage carp impacts in Australia.



NEALE BENNETT

Chairman, Almond Board of Australia

Neale Bennett is a third-generation horticulturist. Between 1992 and 2005 he converted his property from vines (dried fruit) to almonds. Neale also runs a contract almond harvesting business. Neale is a long-serving grower representative on the Almond Board of Australia.



ROBBIE SEFTON

Founder and Managing Director, Seftons

Robbie Sefton has more than 25 years' experience in strategic communication. A producer of wool, meat and grains, Robbie is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. Robbie uses her skills to encourage policies and communication initiatives that enhance rural Australia.



TIM WHETSTONE MP

Member for Chaffey

Tim is a member of the South Australian Parliament, representing the electorate of Chaffey since 2010. Prior to his election Tim was a viticulturist and horticulturalist at Renmark and Overland Corner. He was also a Director of the Renmark Irrigation Trust and Chairman of South Australia Murray Irrigators.



NICOLE EMARA

Business Development Manager CSIRO Land and Water

Nicole Emara joined CSIRO in 2016 as Business Development Manager. Nicole has had a long career in all levels of government, putting to use her innate ability to link science to local needs and secure funding to enable the world's best science to inform the future direction of communities across Australia.



JACKSON WICKHAM

Eighteen-year-old Jackson Wickham has a love of all things paddle steamers. He has received the Rotary Youth of the Year 2014, Australia Day Young Person of the Year 2015, and this year's Santos Regional Service Award, in recognition of his outstanding involvement and leadership in his community.



DAVID PAPPS

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

David Papps is the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Earlier, David was the inaugural Director-General of the ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate. He has also worked as a journalist, environmental consultant and policy advisor, and holds an honours degree in zoology.



CR DAVID THURLEY

MDA National President

Cr David Thurley has been National President of the MDA since 2014 and is a councillor with Albury City Council. David is also an accomplished scientist, astronomer, and futurist. His expertise in the treatment of waste water has taken him to Malaysia, Brazil, England, France, Sweden and Greece.



EMMA BRADBURY

MDA Chief Executive Officer

Emma Bradbury was appointed CEO in May 2014. With almost 20 years' experience as a business owner in the mining sector, Emma has also owned a mixed farming enterprise and served as a councillor with the Shire of Campaspe. Emma is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



MICHAEL CUTTING

Principal Project Officer – Land and Water Management, Natural Resources SA

Michael has been working on salinity and water use projects in the South Australian MDB region since 2004 and more recently has led the regional delivery of the Australian Government funded On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.



BEN FEE

Manager, Agribusiness Initiatives Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)

Ben Fee came to PIRSA/Rural Solutions in 2013 to lead the implementation of the \$265 million South Australia River Murray Sustainability Program. Ben is now leading other agribusiness initiatives for PIRSA.



ANDREW REYNOLDS

Executive Director River Management Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Andrew joined MDBA in 2013 as GM Assets. He has more than twenty years' water industry experience, including the operation, maintenance and upgrade of large water supply dams. Andrew is also a Director of Australian National Committee on Large Dams.



MELINDA HILLERY

Senior Project Officer, Climate Change Adaption, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

Melinda has helped deliver the Western Enabling Regional Adaptation project in the Riverina Murray, which identified ways to adapt government service planning and delivery under climate change. Melinda has a background as a desert scientist.



ANDREW BEAL

Director of River Murray Operations, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Andrew has more than 30 years of experience in water and natural resources construction, operations and policy. As principal adviser to the Water Security Council, he led the South Australian technical response throughout the Millennium Drought.



PETE GEORGE

Senior Partner, M+S Group Accounting

Pete is Partner and Associate of M+S Group Accounting Pty Ltd. Prior to becoming an Accountant, Pete was a Systems Analyst and Computer Programmer, fluent in four languages. Pete serves on several not-for-profit boards, and is also an Angel Flight Pilot in his spare time.



DAVID LEGGE

MC

Back in the day, David played a few seasons of football with the St Kilda Football Club. Since the mid '80s he's been one of the most prolific voice-over talents in Australia.

Please visit mda.asn.au for registration and accommodation options



**Renmark
Paringa
Council**



**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
of COMPANY DIRECTORS**



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