



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 553 Kiewa Street  
P.O. Box 359  
Albury, NSW 2640

## Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017,  
10am for 10:30 am start

a light lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Location: Robert Brown Room Albury City Council,  
Address: 553 Kiewa St, Albury

## AGENDA

1. **ATTENDANCE**
  - 1.1 Present:
  - 2.1 Apologies:
  - 3.1 Declaration of Interests
2. **WELCOME**
  - 2.1 Cr Kevin Mack – Mayor, Albury City
3. **MINUTES**
  - 3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
5. **REPORTS**
  - 5.1 Chairman’s Report
  - 5.2 CEO’s Report
6. **STRATEGIC PLANNING**
  - 6.1 Region 1 Statement of Issues & Priorities – for discussion at Board Planning Workshop
  - 6.2 Regional Boundaries review - for discussion at Board Planning Workshop
7. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
  - 6.1 Constraints management Strategy – issues and concerns
  - 6.2 Inflows – volumes and management.
8. **NEXT MEETING**
9. **CLOSE**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
Albury City for their support in  
hosting this meeting of Region 1.*



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## Region 1 Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 25 November 2016, Start Time: 10.30am

Location: AlburyCity Council

Address: 553 Kiewa St, Albury 2640

## MINUTES

### 1. WELCOME

#### 1.1 Cr David Thurley – Chair Region 1

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting and declared the meeting opened.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Interests

*There was no Declaration of Interests received by the Chairperson.*

### 2. ATTENDANCE

#### 2.1 Present

Mr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council – Chairman Region 1
Greg Whorlow	AlburyCity
Ian Kreutzberger	Federation Council
Mike Eden	Federation Council
Mark Verbaken	Wodonga Council
Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council
Geoff Lucas	Independent member from Beechworth
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association

Clare Purtle (Guest)

Water NSW

#### 2.2 Apologies

Hon Greg Aplin MP

Member for Albury

Mr Ray Stubbs  
Cr Kevin Mack  
Brad Ferris  
Cr Anna Speedie  
Cr Ron Mildren  
Terry Weston

Chief Executive Officer RAMROC  
AlburyCity Council  
AlburyCity Council  
Wodonga Council  
Wodonga Council  
Greater Hume Shire Council  
Snowy Valley Council

### 3. APOLOGIES

**Moved: Tony Quinn Seconded: Geoff Lucas**

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

CARRIED

#### 4. PRESENTATION

4.1 NSW Property Owners Water Rights, Clare Purtle, Senior Water Regulation Officer WaterNSW

**Moved:** Mike Eden, **Seconded:** Tony Quinn

**MOTION:** That the Presentation on NSW Property Owners Water Rights, Clare Purtle, Senior Water Regulation Officer WaterNSW be received and accepted.

CARRIED

#### 5. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHAIRPERSON OF REGION 1

**Moved:** Mike Eden **Seconded:** Geoff Lucas

**MOTION:**

- a. That Cr David Thurley be appointed Chairperson of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 as he was elected unopposed.
- b. That AlburyCity Council, Federation Council and Geoff Lucas nominated for the sub-committee.

CARRIED

#### 6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

**Moved:** Mark Verbaken **Seconded:** Tony Quinn

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 Annual General meeting held on Friday 21 August 2015 in Albury be adopted.

CARRIED

#### 7. BUSINESS ARISING

Finances: Update provided by Emma Bradbury.

#### 8. REPORT FROM THE BOARD

**Moved:** Tony Quinn **Seconded:** Mike Eden

**MOTION:** That the Murray Darling Association Region 1 receive and note the verbal update provided by Emma Bradbury.

CARRIED

#### 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Local Council Emergency Management – Blue Green Algae incident raised by Mark Verbaken.

9.2 Lake Hume levels – Raised by Geoff Lucas.

Action: Cr David Thurley to distribute presentation by Andrew Reynold, MDBA.

#### 10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next Murray Darling Association Region 1 ordinary meeting will be held at 10.30am on Friday 24 February in the Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council, 553 Kiewa Street, Albury.

#### 11. CLOSE

11.1 The meeting closed at 11.50pm.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
AlburyCity for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1.*



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# 2017 Planning Workshop and Session 2 – Regional Issues Map

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## **Time to Time LGA House, 148 Frome Street, Adelaide**

### Linkages:

Strategic Plan 2016 -19  
Resolution of the AGM  
Work Plan 2017  
Board KPI's  
CEO KPI's

### Alignment to Strategy:

Goal: To facilitate informed and constructive debate

Strategic Objective #2: To create a shared understanding of the issues and priorities across the regions.

Strategic Plan 2016-19 2.6 p13

## **2.6 REGIONAL ISSUES**

As an Association, we share the vision of a healthy Murray Darling Basin that supports thriving communities, economic development and sustainable productivity, and work together in our common purpose to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating debate, and seeking to influence government policy common.

We also recognise that our regions represent the interests, issues and circumstances of a wide array of communities across a vast tract of the Australian continent. By working together to better understand the unique issues that define, challenge, and shape our regions, we are better able to inform policy and achieve shared solutions.

The development of our Issues Map, some of the key issues of which are noted below, will inform the strategic direction and define the work of our regions.

## **Resolution of the 2016 AGM – Minutes extract**

### **5.5 Regional Issues Map**

#### Background

Local government across the Basin shares the vision of a healthy Murray Darling Basin. We all aspire to support the opportunity for economic growth and development, health, happy, vibrant people, and a sustainable natural and built environment.

How we achieve that aspiration will vary from council to council, region to region, state to state. We recognise that our regions represent the interests, issues and circumstances of a wide array of communities across a vast tract of the Australian continent.

The councils of the MDA work together to better understand the unique issues that define, challenge and shape our regions. In the year ahead, our regions will continue this work to develop regional strategic plans and advocacy priorities that will help inform policy and achieve shared solutions.

**Motion:** That the Murray Darling Association

a) notes an undertaking by the 12 regions of the Basin to develop Regional Strategies reports to address local issues as noted at item 2.6 of the Murray Darling Association Strategic Plan 2016-19,

b) will, through its region meetings support the contribution of informed content to identify and define regional issues, and

c) seeks funding to resource the development of these reports into Regional Strategic Plans.

**Moved:** Cr B Featherston/Cr F Tuckwell Carried

	Process
	<p>What is the process for developing the “Regional Issues Maps”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name – does the title “Regional Issues Map” clearly identify what the document is/what it does. Are these intended to be Regional Plans/ Strategies/Advocacy Priorities</li><li>• Timeline – when do we want them to be finalised/delivered.</li><li>• Input from the member councils.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Call for papers from member councils – affirms they are the position of the council, not just the view of the delegate</li><li>➤ Development and review/consultation</li><li>➤ Adoption by the regions</li><li>➤ Presentation to National Conference and endorsement by the Membership at the AGM</li></ul></li><li>• Final product and style guide.</li></ul>
	Content
	<p>It will be important that there is an element of consistency of format across the regions in the final product.</p> <p>The following framework or contents is proposed as a starting point. The content framework will need to reflect the purpose of the document (see first item in ‘process’ above.)</p> <p>Your input is important, so please think about what you want to see in this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What is this Document About</li><li>▪ A bit about our Region #<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Boundaries</li><li>➤ Local government areas in the region</li><li>➤ Regional Profile</li><li>➤ Member Councils</li></ul></li><li>▪ Our Partners and Stakeholders</li><li>▪ The Basin Plan – Impacts to date</li><li>▪ The Role of Local Government</li><li>▪ Current Issues impacting our region</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strengths</li> <li>➤ Opportunities</li> <li>▪ Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Healthy Local Communities</li> <li>➤ A Prosperous Region</li> <li>➤ Connected Communities</li> <li>➤ A Healthy Natural Environment</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Effective Governance</li> <li>▪ Targeted Advocacy Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ .</li> <li>➤ .</li> <li>➤ .</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Beyond the Basin Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Where to from here</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Responsibilities	
	<p>This is a significant body of work, and will require active co-ordination by the Region Chairs and their chairing councils, quality input from member councils, and substantial work in sculpting the final daft, consulting with members and producing the final document. It will also provide an opportunity for Chairs to engage with and attract non-member councils.</p> <p>Responsibility for those parts of the process need to be identified, discussed and agreed. It is recommended that there be some element of accountability set, even if that is simply a requirement for chairs to report to the board on progress periodically</p> <p>KPIs need to be set to ensure alignment to and consistency with the Workplan. The Boards KPI's need to be SCRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic</li> <li>• Consistent across the Regions</li> <li>• Realistic</li> <li>• Agreed</li> <li>• Measurable</li> </ul>



# 2017 Planning Workshop and Session 2 – Regional Boundaries

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**Time to Time**  
**LGA House, 148 Frome Street, Adelaide**

Linkages:

Resolution of the 2016 AGM  
Work Plan 2017  
Board KPI's  
CEO KPI's

Alignment to Strategy:

Goal: To facilitate informed and constructive debate

Strategic Objective #2: To create a shared understanding of the issues and priorities across the regions.

## 5.6 Review of Regional Boundaries

Background

The MDA has 12 Regions across the Basin, covering 4 states & ACT. State borders are not defining boundaries, with our regions associated by councils reflecting common regional interests and shared ecologies. In order to ensure the strength of our regions, it is important that our member councils identify a strong alignment of interests within each region.

To ensure that our regional boundaries do reflect and achieve that objective, a review should be undertaken with the active engagement of our members and stakeholders.

The MDA is currently working with the Dept of Environment cartography team to provide up to date mapping.

**Motion:** That the Murray Darling Association

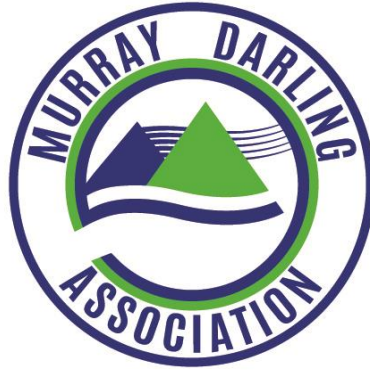
- a) undertake a body of work, in 2017/18 to review the regional boundaries in collaboration with all member councils to ensure a continuation of alignment as communities of interest.
- b) notes that the Murray Darling Association does not recognise state borders as defining regional boundaries.

**Moved:** Cr D Thurley/P Frost Carried

Process
<p>What is the process for Reviewing the regional boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Timeline – when do we want them to be finalised/delivered.</li><li>• Input from the member councils.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Call for papers from member councils – affirms they are the position of the council, not just the view of the delegate</li><li>➤ Development and review/consultation</li><li>➤ Adoption by the regions</li><li>➤ Presentation to National Conference and endorsement by the Membership at the AGM</li></ul></li></ul>

	<b>Principles</b>
	<p>What are the guiding principles regarding regional alignments?</p> <p>Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ distances,</li><li>➤ practicality,</li><li>➤ engagement,</li><li>➤ efficiency,</li><li>➤ expense to chairing councils.</li></ul> <p>Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Alignment with other agencies</li><li>➤ State borders</li><li>➤ Alignment to WRPs? (Water Resource Plans)</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Water resource plans (WRPs) set out how water resources will be managed. They are developed by the Basin states, or in certain circumstances by the Authority, for approval by the Commonwealth Water Minister.</li><li>▪ A water resource plan area is a geographical area, of which there are 14 for surface water, 16 for groundwater and an additional six for surface water and groundwater combined. As far as possible, the boundaries match those of existing state water management areas.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Groundwater Resource Plan Map</a></p> <p><a href="#">Surface water Resource Plan Map</a></p>





# Chief Executive Officer's Region Report Feb 2017

Prepared by: Emma Bradbury

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## 1. Diary

25/11/16	MDA Board Meeting 362	Albury
28/11/16	Meeting – QMDC	Toowoomba
29/11/2016	Meeting – Mayor and CEO Toowoomba Regional Council	Toowoomba
29/11/2016	Meeting – CEO Southern Downs Regional Council	Warwick
30/11/2016	Meeting – CEO and Deputy Mayor Goondiwindi Regional Council	Goondiwindi
1/12/2016	Presentation – Namoi Councils Joint Organization (8 councils)	Tamworth
1/12/2016	Presentation – Western District Regional Councils Annual Conference (12 councils and community)	St George, Balonne Shire
2/12/2016	Meeting with Advisor on Water to QLD Water Minister Dr Anthony Lyneham	Brisbane
14/12/2016	2017 National Conference Planning Meeting	Skype
15/12/2016	Meeting – Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce	Sydney
22/12/2016	Meeting – The Hon Bob Katter	Charters Towers
6/01/2017	Meeting – MDBA REO Merrill Boyd	Echuca
11/01/2017	Meeting – Campaspe Shire CEO & Chair of Murray River Group	Echuca
17/01/2017	Meeting – Murray Rivers Council General Manager and Administrator	Moama
19/01/2017	Meeting – AICD to discuss sponsorship and collaboration (governance and strategy)	Melbourne
20/01/2017	Attend event – McArthur Group	Melbourne
20/01/2017	Meeting – MAV President, CEO and Dir Water Policy.	Melbourne
23/01/2017	Presentation – Council Workshop - Wangaratta Council	Wangaratta
25/01/2017	Meeting – Balonne Shire Council CEO	Goondiwindi
	Presentation – Council Workshop – Goondiwindi RC	Goondiwindi
	Meeting – MDBA Northern Basin Director	Toowoomba
01/02/2017	Meeting - Director of Southern Water Infrastructure Section Water Division, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Echuca
02/02/2016	Meeting – Phillip Glyde – CEO MDBA	
02/02/2017	MDBA Community Information Session	Moama
07/02/2017	Presentation - Gannawarra Shire Council	Kerang

## 2. Strategy

### Memberships

Engagement – Vigorous round of engagements with member and prospective member councils, as well as external stakeholders. Strong support being received via state LGAs, new and prospective member councils as well as regional groupings of councils.

### Withdrawals

While we have experienced solid growth in new memberships, with interest from non-member councils continuing to grow, there is also a small but concerning trend of withdrawals across several regions, with councils no longer just continuing membership year on year. With council budgets tightening in a very material sense, councils are reviewing their membership spends across a range of organizations and if they are not seeing value or involvement, or alignment to their Council Plans, they are withdrawing memberships.

The MDA Strategic Plan and our advocacy priorities now demonstrate a strong alignment with the objectives of all Basin councils, but without effective communication and engagement, it will be increasingly difficult to retain existing memberships. Chairs and their councils need to actively consider their regional engagement strategies. (see also Finance notes below).

### Joint Organisations and Groups of Councils

Increasing trend in Joint Organizations and Groups of Councils interested in joining as groups. A discount is available for group memberships.

### Finance

MDA continues to operate on a budget that, while balanced and on track to deliver a modest surplus this year, is still far too lean to continue deliver on purpose at the rate and caliber commensurate with stakeholder expectations and opportunity. Importance of establishing a finance committee cannot be overstated.

Project opportunity with AICD to currently explore stronger governance and additional revenue stream. Proposal pending.

The board is establishing a finance committee to support stronger financial growth and

### Advocacy Priorities

- MDA has written to all Basin Water Ministers requesting support for local government, via the MDA, to be formally recognized and included in the Basin Plan decision making processes, and an opportunity to meet to discuss this, and how the MDA and our member councils can better work with our state and federal government on the continuing implementation of the Basin Plan.

We have put the case that as the third level of government in Australia, and the one most directly connected to community, local government has a valuable contribution to make in the processes, community consultation, and the formulation of decisions made and taken in the continuing implementation of the Basin Plan.

Response to date has been positive.

- MDA has drafted a response and partnered with a number of member councils across the northern Basin in the preparation of a response/submission to the proposed Basin Plan amendments.
- MDA played an active role in seeking to mitigate adverse impact on local government and communities from the division between the states and the Federal Govt following the meeting of the Ministerial Council of Basin Governments in Adelaide in Nov 2016.

### **MDA Regional Boundary Review**

Water resource plans (WRPs) set out how water resources will be managed. They are developed by the Basin states, or in certain circumstances by the Authority, for approval by the Commonwealth Water Minister.

A water resource plan area is a geographical area, of which there are 14 for surface water, 16 for groundwater and an additional six for surface water and groundwater combined. As far as possible, the boundaries match those of existing state water management areas.

Consider the merits of MDA regional alignments taking WRPs as well as LGA boundaries into consideration. Standing agenda item for all 2017 region meetings.

### **3. Projects**

Social and Economic Impacts Evaluation Framework – funding still not yet secured to commence this project. Meetings in Canberra in March with a number of interested departmental stakeholders. Letters will go out to funding partners in the coming weeks.

Australian Institute of Company Directors – Following positive meetings in Melbourne, we are currently awaiting a project proposal from AICD.

### **4. Staff Matters**

MDA is committed to nurturing new talent and skills. We have recently joined the Schools Friendly Businesses consortium in Campaspe, and have taken on a School Based Apprentice/Trainee, Annette Waters. Annette is student at Rochester Secondary College and has demonstrated an active involvement in community participation over several years.

### **5. Regions**

**Meetings calendar 2017** – It is the ideas generated and the minutes/resolutions of the region meetings that provide the *imprimatur* for the MDA to carry forward our advocacy priorities and deliver on our purpose. Region meetings must be well run and attended, with chairs and committees ensuring that member councils are aware of and engaged in the meetings.

Meeting schedules should be published on the MDA website. Any region that has not provided its 2017 meeting schedule to the MDA for publication on the website should do so immediately.

Region 12 – The MDA welcomes Balonne Shire Council Mayor Richard Marsh and CEO Matthew Magin to the role of Chair of Region 12. We look forward to their valuable contribution and detailed knowledge of Northern Basin issues.

## **6. In brief – updates**

2017 National Conference and AGM Committee – tentative date set for 11-13 October. This event will be held in Renmark.SA. East Coast Conferences has been engaged and a committee formed to organist the conference, with a number of high caliber sponsors already having requested an opportunity to sponsor and present. Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and has accepted the MDA's invitation to open the conference.

Premises lease – 463-465 High Street Echuca lease with Parks Victoria renewed for a further 2 years. The co-location of these two organizations in Echuca-Moama is extremely favorable to the MDA, both financially and in providing an exceptionally high quality workplace and positive team environment.

Emma Bradbury  
Chief Executive Officer

