

Region 4 Ordinary Meeting

AGENDA

Location:	Midway Centre 6 Midway Drive, Buronga, NSW
Time/date:	Thursday 22 November 2018 – 2:00pm EST
Presenters:	Nil

1. ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Present:
- 1.2 Apologies:

2. WELCOME

- 2.1 Chair

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting on 20 July 2018 in Wentworth (*attached*).

5. BUSINESS ARISING

- 5.1 Proper, effective consultation strategy with NSW Department DOI would be suggested
- 5.2 Update regarding Balranald joining Region 4

6. REPORTS

- 6.1 Chairman's Report – Verbal report from Councillor MacAllister
- 6.2 Murray Darling Association CEO Report – Emma Bradbury (*report from CEO attached*)

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 Strategic Planning Workshop – Councillor MacAllister

The Murray Darling Association's 2019 Strategic Planning Workshop will be held at Echuca/Moama from Friday, February 1 to Monday, February 4, 2019.

- This event will incorporate the following:
- Board meeting 383 on 11.30am Friday, February 1;
- Strat Planning Workshop Day 1 – commencing 1.30pm Friday, February 1;
- Strat Planning Workshop Day 2 8.30am – 4.00pm Saturday, February 2;
- Dinner;
- Paddleboat lunch on either the Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Board members are encouraged to invite appropriately contributory members, executive and

stakeholders from their region who may be interested in taking part.

2017 AGM Motion response (*attached*)

7.2 Australian Floodplain Association Update – Councillor MacAllister (*Report from Terry Korn attached*)

Written report from Terry Korn on meetings with Rachel Connell, Executive Director (Water) NSW Department of Industry, Land and Water; Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Water and Mick Keelty, Northern Basin Commissioner

7.3 Day of Action Protest March Report – Verbal report from Councillor Turley

8. PRESENTATION

8.1 Nil

9. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

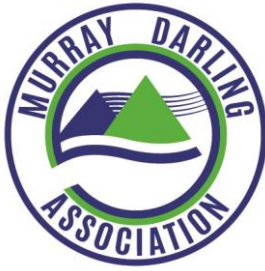
10. CLOSE

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Wentworth Shire Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 4.

Agenda Item 4

Minutes of Region 4 Meeting

held on 27 September 2018



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

**Region 4 Meeting
1.30pm - Thursday 27 September 2018
Midway Centre, Buronga**

MINUTES

MDA Region 4 meeting opened at 1.40pm

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

In Attendance:

Mayor Melisa Hederics - Chair	Wentworth Shire Council
Deputy Mayor Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council
Mr Mark Jenkins	Mildura Rural City Council
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council
Mr Ken Ross	Wentworth Shire Council

By Video Link:

Mayor Darriea Turley	Broken Hill City Council
Deputy Mayor Marion Browne	Broken Hill City Council
Mr James Roncon	Broken Hill City Council

By Telephone:

Ms Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association
------------------	----------------------------

1.2 Apologies

Cr Anthony Cirillo	Mildura Rural City Council
Cr Jason Modica	Mildura Rural City Council
Gerard Jose	Mildura Rural City Council

2. DECLARATIONS

Nil

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion:

That the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and correct record

Moved: Cr Darriea Turley

Second: Cr Jane MacAllister

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Balranald inclusion to Region 4 – letter has been sent out, awaiting response; Emma Bradbury said Region 3 had a meeting earlier in the year, only 2 members; Strategic Advisory Group discussed; regional borders under review – State to State.

Motion:

That Region 4 write to Swan Hill Council, encouraging them to join with Region 4.

Moved: Cr Jane MacAllister

Second: Cr Tim Elstone

CARRIED

4.2 CC Letter to Executive MDA also, for record.

4.3 Gerard Jose was an apology for Strategic Advisory Committee meeting.

5 REPORTS

5.1 CHAIR REPORT

Due to being elected Chair of the Far South West Joint Organisation, Mayor Melisa Hederics stepped down as Chair Region 4 MDA, noting Wentworth Shire Council holds the chair until next AGM (May 2019). It was noted that both Cr Elstone and Cr Heywood had expressed interest in being endorsed by WSC as delegates on MDA.

Motion:

That Cr Jane MacAllister be appointed to take up position of Chair Region 4, noting she has been sitting as proxy on Board meetings and attended AGM.

Moved: Cr Melisa Hederics

Second: Cr Darriea Turley

CARRIED

As Cr MacAllister was taking minutes it was agreed that Mayor Hederics continue chairing the meeting.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Annual Report

AGM motions discussed (result and report from Emma Bradbury re: support for motion lost re: increased level of water held at Menindee)

Motion:

That the executive writes to Regions 4, 5, and 6, inviting them to a joint meeting in Renmark to discuss Menindee proposals and the impact downstream.

Moved: Cr Jane MacAllister

Second: Cr Tim Elstone

CARRIED

6.2 Web Page

Emma Bradbury reported that the web page for motion tracker has been updated weekly or so.

6.3 Submissions

Water Ombudsman motion submitted to Royal Commissioner, Bret Walker QC, at his request. MDA submission to Productivity Commission and presentation at hearing.

Meeting to present NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy upcoming.

Emma Bradbury meeting with NSW Department to back up Region 4 for proper consultation.

Draft letter to DOI through Emma

Motion:

That Region 4 request they are consulted as a Region in relation to all water policy.

Moved: Cr Tim Elstone

Second: Cr Darriea Turley

CARRIED

Board resolved on date and theme of 2019 AGM and Conference:

Regeneration for a healthy Basin – to be held 22-24 October 2019.

2020 hosting expressions of interest close 28 October 2018.

Motion:

That Region 4 put in an Expression of Interest to host the 2020 MDA Conference.

Moved: Cr Jane MacAllister

Second: Cr Darriea Turley

CARRIED

Broken Hill City Council reported they will hold a March for the Darling on 2 November 2018.

7 NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

8 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 2pm

AGENDA ITEM 6.2

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

CEO REPORT



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

CEO's Report November 2018

Previous appointments

Date	Appointment	Location
October 5-10	Meetings with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales Department of Industry • National Carp Control Plan • Commonwealth Environmental Water Office • Department of Agriculture and Water Resources • Murray-Darling Basin Authority • CSIRO 	Canberra
October 24	Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Program public meeting	Echuca
October 26	Productivity Commission <i>Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report</i> public hearing	Canberra
October 26	Hon. David Littleproud, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources	Canberra
November 1	Independent review of the Murray-Darling Basin joint governance agreements	Canberra
November 2	Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Program public meeting	Deniliquin
November 8	Hon. Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water	Melbourne
November 15	Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Program local government consultation session	Echuca
November 21-27	Tour of Region 10, 11 and 12	Various locations

Productivity Commission *Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report*

The MDA submitted a 10-page submission to the draft report, which is accessible on both the Productivity Commission and MDA websites.

Public hearings were held in Mildura, Murray Bridge, Shepparton, Dubbo and Canberra during October, with the MDA speaking to its submission at the Canberra event.

Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Program

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources held 14 public meetings between October 22 and November 6 regarding this program. Four sessions will occur across northern Victoria and southern New South Wales between November 14 and 16.

The MDA has produced a submission regarding the program, available to download from the Our Reports section of the MDA website.

A local government consultation session occurred in Echuca on Thursday, November 15.

Progress on AGM resolutions

Progress relating to resolutions from the past five Murray Darling Association annual general meetings are now available to view online

A website has been created, documenting the outcomes of motions considered during previous AGMs held at Tumut (2014), Barooga (2015), Dubbo (2016), Renmark (2017) and Leeton (2018).

The website has been designed to allow members and stakeholders to track the work of the MDA. Copies of correspondence sent to the relevant government or agency regarding each resolution, as well as responses received, are available to download.

To access the pages, visit the MDA website and click on the "Conference Resolutions" link, located in the Annual Conference menu.

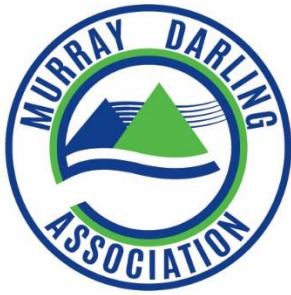
National Conference

Balonne Shire Council and Toowoomba Regional Council will co-host the Murray Darling Association's Jubilee 75th National Conference.

The three-day event will be held at Toowoomba from Tuesday, October 22 to Thursday, October 24, 2019.

The conference - themed *ReGeneration... for a healthy Basin* - will focus on various topics, including regenerative agriculture, renewable energy opportunities; climate change; and the continued implementation of the Basin Plan.

Registrations will open soon, with event details to be available on the MDA website.



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

Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Program Local government consultation session

Mercure Port of Echuca
Thursday, November 15, 2018
2.30pm-5.30pm

ATTENDEES

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Paul Morris	First Assistant Secretary, Water Division
Fleur Downard	A/g Director, Efficiency Measures Policy Section

Regional peak bodies

Murray River Group of Councils Mayor Cheryl McKinnon – Chair (Loddon Shire Council) Geoff Turner – Executive Officer	Member councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campaspe Shire Council ○ Gannawarra Shire Council ○ Loddon Shire Council ○ Mildura Rural City Council ○ Moira Shire Council ○ Swan Hill Rural City Council
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation Mayor Kevin Mack – Chair (Albury City Council) Ray Stubbs – Executive Officer	Member councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albury City Council ○ Berrigan Shire ○ Carrathool Shire Council ○ Edward River Council ○ Federation Council ○ Griffith City Council ○ Hay Shire Council ○ Leeton Shire Council ○ Murray River Council ○ Murrumbidgee Council ○ Narrandera Shire Council

Council representatives

City of Greater Bendigo	Cr James Williams
Berrigan Shire	Cr Ross Bodey Cr Roger Reynoldson
Buloke Shire Council	Cr David Pollard
Campaspe Shire Council	Mayor Adrian Weston Cr Neil Pankhurst Cr John Zobec Jason Russell - Chief Executive Officer

Edward River Council	Mayor Norm Brennan Adam McSwain – General Manager
Federation Council	Mayor Patrick Bourke
Griffith City Council	Mayor John Dal Broi Brett Stonestreet – General Manager
Greater Shepparton City Council	Peter Harriott – Chief Executive Officer
Leeton Shire Council	Mayor Paul Maytom
Loddon Shire Council	Mayor Cheryl McKinnon Cr Neil Beattie Phil Pinyon – Chief Executive Officer
Moira Shire Council	Cr Peter Mansfield Mark Henderson – Chief Executive Officer
Murray River Council	Mayor Chris Bilkey
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Paul Morris - First Assistant Secretary, Water Division Fleur Downard - A/g Director, Efficiency Measures Policy Section

APOLOGIES

Des Bilske	General Manager, Murray River Council
Adrian Butler	General Manager, Federation Council
Cr Melisa Hederics	Mayor, Wentworth Shire Council
Gerard Jose	Chief Executive Officer, Mildura Rural City Council
Anthony Judd	Chief Executive Officer, Buloke Shire Council
Craig Niemann	Chief Executive Officer, City of Greater Bendigo
Cr Dennis Patterson	Greater Shepparton City Council
Rowan Perkins	General Manager, Berrigan Shire
Ken Ross	Acting General Manager, Wentworth Shire Council

Thirteen councils and two regional peaks, covering 20 local government areas and representing 483,224 people across northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, met on November 15 with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources regarding the Murray-Darling Basin Water Infrastructure Project socioeconomic impact assessment criteria.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2

AUSTRALIAN FLOODPLAIN ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Subject: AFA Update

Over the last two days I have met with Rachel Connell, Executive Director (Water) NSW Department of Industry, Land and Water; Tony Burke, Shadow Minister for Water (both in Sydney) and Mick Keelty, Northern Basin Commissioner (in Canberra).

Issues discussed:

1. Rachel Connell (1.5hrs) – **(a) Water Resource Plans**, their connectivity, likely hood of roll-out by 30 June 2019, mechanisms which will allow flexibility within Plans to accommodate new information as it comes to light, especially in relation to the imp[lementation of the NSW floodplain harvesting policy. I believe I convinced Rachel that she must arrange a meeting between representatives of the Barwon Darling SAP and the Lower Darling/Murray SAP to discuss connectivity issues. NSW is seeking an extension of 6 months to prepare and submit their WRPs. **(b) The Menindee Lakes SDL project** – after last week's round of 10 meetings in three days at venues between Wentworth/Broken Hill They were bruised by the hostility of community reaction to the project and now understand the project in its current form has no community support. My take is that a review is now inevitable. **(c) Progress on NSW commitments to the Basin State's Compliance Compact** – The Ministerial Council water states signed up to certain commitments which have defined timelines. I wanted to see how NSW was performing in meeting its 30 June 2018 and 30 September 2018 deadlines. Rachel and her team were frank and transparent on this issue and I am pleased to say most deadlines have been met. Like my meeting with the MDBA on 18 October, who were equally cooperative on this issue, I wanted to ensure they knew they were being watched by groups such as ours. They promised to send me a spread-sheet which details the current state. **(d) A class licences in the Barwon Darling** – I recommended government remove these licences from the system either by buying them out or by other mechanisms which prevent them from taking low flows from a stressed river.
2. Tony Burke (40min) – I sent a series of questions to Tony prior to the meeting:
 - The Productivity Commission Report on the first 5 yrs. of the Plan. The AFA was on the Stakeholder Working Party the PC established for the review. Which recommendations resonated and which are unlikely to be supported?
 - Should you win government next year what are the main MDB Plan areas you will be seeking advice on from stakeholders?
 - Do you support the protection of the entire Darling River by insisting that connected and equitable Water Resource Plans are enacted? Experienced AFA members who have long fought the water battle in the Northern Basin and lived on the Darling river have no faith in what the Northern Basin promises to deliver under the Plan.
 - Are you planning to re-visit any of the efficiency or supply measure projects if you win government?
 - What is your position on the use of long term averages in modelling rather than the use of more recent data since development (say 1990) or median values rather than averages?

I was joined by committee members Justin McClure and Sarah Moles who phoned in. We were not able to stick tightly to my questions as the conversation ranged but the main points to come out of the meeting were that Tony insists the 450 GL water has to be delivered; he does not believe the projects will deliver the 605 GL and that we should be prepared to go back into the market; thus the 1500 GL buyback limit should be removed from legislation; he thinks the

original socio-economic impact threshold of the Plan has been distorted and weakened by the coalition government and the original intent should be restored so that communities are treated more equitably (we raised the point about the 1500km of river and communities between Bourke and Wentworth who have been ignored to date from a socio-economic impact viewpoint); Tony was strong on supporting cultural water; He identified constraints as a major barrier to delivery of water in the Basin and would address that as a priority if Labor was elected. Justin raised the issue of the NSW floodplain harvesting policy and the potential for sale of FPH water. Justin told Tony he believed the sale of FPH water would only cause grief.

It is my view we should not expect any serious rocking of the Basin Plan boat by Tony Burke if Labor is elected next year.

3. Mick Keelty (60 min) – **This was a “get the know each other” meeting, identify concerns and share information.** Alyssa Bagley, Mick’s assistant sat in on the meeting. Alyssa used to work in wetland areas so is familiar with wetland and floodplain needs. She knows Richard Kingsford well. It was productive and valuable meeting. Mick is a down to earth type who is keen to learn about the Northern Basin and how best to interact with community along the river. They sought advice how best to meet people and to get information. I told him people were meeting fatigued, coping with drought and his best approach would be to meet individuals or groups of 2/3 people on a river journey rather than have larger group meetings. This way he would get more useful and frank information. He has the good idea to improve compliance technology and monitoring methodology by ensuring states and agencies are coordinated by a central group which oversees the various projects underway or proposed. Sounded good to me! He also wants to use his police experience to develop a process/framework which will ensure states and individuals are brought to account for use of commonwealth grants associated with water efficiency/management projects. Long overdue, difficult but if anyone can do it, it should be him. Go for it Mick! He requested a contact in the Northern Basin who could give him a learned and frank account of how the system has and currently operates. I gave him Ed Fessey’s contact details and have alerted Ed that he will be contacted.

4. Other Issues/Meetings over the last six weeks:

- Over the last month I have attended a Productivity Commission meeting on behalf of the AFA. We are on their working group to assist in the 5 yr. review of the Basin Plan. The draft report is being turned into a final report which will be released in December.
- I have met with the MDBA to discuss their Compliance Compact progress
- I attended a meeting in Dubbo with Rory Treweeke on Floodplain Harvesting
- Rory Treweeke attended the Gwydir WRP meeting in Moree
- Justin and Julie attended a meeting in Wilcannia with NSW Department of Industry Water about the Menindee Lakes Sustainable Diversion Limit Project.
- Rory Treweeke and Justin attended an AFA funded meeting in Sydney at the Environmental Defenders Office with Emma Carmody (our EDO solicitor), Geoff Wise, David Harriss and Derek Everson to map out a program/strategy for the Barwon Darling.
- We have had three committee meetings over the last six/eight weeks.
- Sarah Moles, Rory Treweeke and I met by phone last Monday to plan a response to the NSW DOI Water Floodplain Harvesting consultation process and how the AFA would respond to the Gwydir WRP and others as they are put on public display.

Next Thursday 15 November I will represent the AFA at an MDBA Peak Body meeting in Canberra where an update will be provided by the MDBA on the Basin Plan.

Each body has been asked to submit three items for discussion. The AFA has sent the following topics:

1. **Water Resource/Sharing Plans – (a) Connectivity** - State Water Resource Plans are to be accredited by the MDBA before becoming statutorily effective. The AFA contends that in the Northern Basin in particular, WRPs must ensure an agreed environmentally healthy end of system flow at the Darling River mouth at Wentworth is reached. For this to happen WRPs must inform each other (i.e. be connected). No Plan should be accredited unless it addresses this issue, despite the fact it may cause problems with sequencing approval of Plans and meeting the 30 June 2019 deadline.

(b) Town water, stock and domestic supply, cultural and environmental needs must be given priority over irrigation. The WRPs must acknowledge that to ensure ecologically sustainable development fundamental water needs have priority as underpinned by NW and Commonwealth Water Acts.

2. **Floodplain Harvesting** – The NSW is implementing a Floodplain Harvesting Policy which has implications for Base Line Diversion Limits, Sustainable Diversion Limits, water resource plans, floodplain health and non-irrigator river community social, economic and cultural well-being and health. The AFA asks that the way in which the NSW and Queensland governments measure, account and manage floodplain harvesting informs the Basin Plan, be clearly explained. We request that communication on this issue be done transparently and in a manner which allows affected communities to make a meaningful and timely contribution.

3. **Menindee SDL Project** – The AFA has serious concerns that this project has not appropriately accounted for the detrimental impact it will have on communities downstream of Menindee and that it will not deliver the proposed water savings. The optics are that government is sacrificing the low density populations and relatively few agricultural properties downstream of Menindee to meet an SDL commitment that cannot be delivered. This approach does not comply with the objects of the relevant Water Acts.

As a last point the committee would like to know which AFA members are on social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). If so, would you be willing to share your account names with other AFA members so there is more comprehensive communication. If you are happy to cooperate with this please send your account names to me and I will set up the network (with considerable help from Sarah Moles)

I have probably missed something and if so I apologise to the committee for overlooking it.

Best wishes

Terry

Terry Korn PSM

President

Australian Floodplain Association

ausfloodplain@bigpond.com

Professional Associate

Canberra University

0447847399 or 0262570616

57 Elimatta Street

Braddon ACT 2612