



Murray Darling Association Inc.

www.mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

Region 5 Chairperson
Cr Kevin Myers
crkmyers@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
0428 518 994

Region 5 Secretary
Kelvin Goldstone – Mid Murray Council
kgoldstone@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
8564 6020

Agenda

Region 5 - Ordinary Meeting

Berri Barmera Council
19 Wilson Street, Berri

Monday 3 August, 2015 at 10.00am
(Morning tea available from 9.30am)

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

1.2 Apologies

Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer Murray Darling Association

2. WELCOME

Cr Kevin Myers – Chairperson Region 5

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGION 5 MEETING

moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.
Seconded

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Regions – June 2015

A copy of the report is attached.

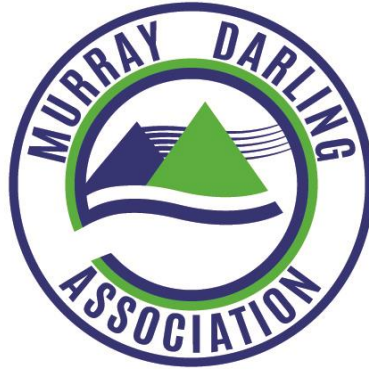
5.2 71st Annual General Meeting & National Conference

A copy of the program and registration form is attached.

6. NEXT MEETING

7. CLOSE

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
Berri Barmera Council for hosting this meeting of Region 5*



Chief Executive Officer's Report to the Regions June 2015

Prepared by: Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association
463 High Street
Echuca Vic 3564

Phone: (03) 5480 3805
Email: e.bradbury@mda.asn.au
Website: www.mda.asn.au

1. From the Chief Executive Officer's desk

Happy New Financial Year! I have now been just over a year in the role, it has certainly been a busy time for the MDA, and rapid entry into the world of water for me.

In 2014, this board set an ambitious agenda to undertake a range of operational reviews, including a review of the MDA's financial processes and position.

These reviews are now largely complete. The 2015 year-end financial reports will show some substantial adjustments as the review identified opportunities for a number of system wide improvements. I am delighted to report that, consistent with the organization's objectives in undertaking this work, the MDA is in a solid financial position, with a good cash flow, growing membership and sound management practices positioning us well for a year of growth ahead.

Other projects are ongoing as the MDA continues to position itself to meet the challenges of ensuring the Basin water resources are used and managed in a way that delivers the greatest sustainable economic, social and environmental benefit to our rural communities, farming sector and all who rely on our Basin's resources.

Conference 2015

Registrations for the Conference, along with the Conference Program will be available online by Friday 17th July.

The theme for this year's conference is "**It's In The Balance**", promoting the importance of the balanced implementation of the Basin Plan such that it provides for the integrated management for the Basin water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Emails have recently been sent to all member councils inviting submissions for motions to be put forward and considered at the AGM

There is to be an inaugural inter-regional competition to be held on the Wednesday morning. The inaugural event, for which there will be a perpetual trophy, is a Golf Ambrose, sponsored by McArthur Group.

To host a team, please contact Sandra Adams on 03 5480 3805 or email admin@mda.asn.au

2. Projects

i) Social and Economic Impacts Data Collection and Assessment Project

In 2014 the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) partnered with the Murray Darling Association (MDA) in a joint project focused on collecting and assessing the suitability of information available from local government organisations within the Basin to assist the MDBA to analyse the trends and drivers of economic change over time as the Basin Plan is implemented.

This project was completed in June with a report, containing a number of recommendations submitted to the MDBA.

A key recommendation of this report that further work be undertaken to develop resources that will assist both local government and the Murray Darling Basin Authority to access and share information that will assist in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of social and economic impacts of the Basin Plan, felt at the local level.

Following adoption by the board at its next meeting, a full copy of the report will be distributed to participating councils, and posted on the MDA's website.

ii) Towong Shire has taken over carriage of a small project to develop Murray Valley Trail signage.

- iii) Wirraminna Education and Environmental Centre has taken over carriage of the NRM Education Plan Project.

The MDA does not currently have any dedicated project/field staff. However, the projects department is recognized as a valuable component of the MDA's stakeholder engagement and public education work. It will be a priority for the organisation to explore processes by which we re-engage in this space.

3. Staff Matters

I am delighted with our small but highly effective team, comprising Sandra Adams, Executive Assistant and office manager, Stan Gibney, Finance Manager and we now also welcome

Alice Russell to the role of Marketing and Communications Officer.

This is a wonderful team, with a high level of commitment and an excellent mix of skills and experience. Our organisation is very fortunate to have each of these individuals, collectively, driving some terrific outcomes for the MDA. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

30 June 2015 saw the completion of Adrian Wells' long and distinguished service with the MDA, with Adrian unable to renew his contract due to ongoing health reasons.

A review of Adrian's achievements shows us that the organisation has some great work to do to maintain the standards in community engagement and creative education initiatives set by Adrian over almost 25 years.

We wish Adrian and Di the very best for a strong recovery and a happy retirement.

4. Murray Darling Foundation

The Foundation Committee experienced a number of challenges in the 2014/15 year, and in March/April the Chairman, Mr Brian Grogan tendered the resignation of himself and the current committee.

The board have appointed Cr Oscar Aertssen, R3 to the Chair of the Foundation, pending an election of a new committee in due course.

5. Meetings – external

In May, National President Greg Toll and myself travelled to Canberra and met with Hon Sharman Stone MP, Hon Michael McCormack MP, Mr Andrew Broad MP, Country Labor Executive team of The Hon Joel Fitzgibbons, Lisa Chesters MP and ..., the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, Parl Sec; Rhonda Dixon – Chief Executive Officer of the MDBA; Senator John Madigan; and CEWH David Papps and others in a series of meetings to advocate on a range of issues endorsed by the MDA membership. A brief of the issues is attached.

I am pleased to report that subsequent to those meetings, the Parliamentary Secretary Bob Baldwin announced the introduction of legislation to cap water buy backs, among other gains.

Cr Peter Jamieson, Chair of R7 made a member benefits presentation to Marion Council in South Australia.

The Chair and I have attended Regional meetings at the invitation of Regions 3, 7 and 8, and I have attended meetings in the Murrumbidgee Region, and Region 3 in Balranald. A particular note of thanks must go to the Mayor and staff of the Campbelltown Council for the genuinely warm welcome and gracious hosting of what was a well attended and very productive meeting Region 7.

The Chair and myself met with Neil Andrew and Barry Hart – MDBA, Chair and board member of the MDBA recently in Echuca.

6. In brief - updates

6.1. Review of the Water Act 2007

The Panel has now presented its report to the (then) Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Senator Simon Birmingham.

The full report can be downloaded from

[Report of the Independent Review of the Water Act 2007](#)

The summary of conclusions and recommendations to be downloaded from

[Report of the Independent Review of the Water Act 2007 – Conclusions and Recommendations](#)

6.2. New website

The launch of our new website has been on hold for several months due to capacity constraints (staff spread too thin on other matters). However, the bulk of the work has been completed, and with Alice now on board, she is able to focus pulling that work together and ensuring our launch date is imminent!

Review of the Constitution

The timeline for the review of the constitution has been revised to allow for greater consultation with and input from our membership. A consultation strategy, and draft will be presented at the AGM. Members will have the opportunity to engage in the process during the 2015/16 year. The final draft of the new Constitution will be prepared in time for adoption at the 2016 AGM.

7. From the Regions

Region 1 – Darryl Jacob, long standing chair of R1 retired in May. Cr Thurley of the Albury City Council was endorsed as interim chair. Region 1 will hold its AGM in August.

Region 2 - Chaired by Cr Greg Toll continues to meet regularly and shows a strong level of engagement and advocacy for the region.

Region 3 – Chaired by Cr Oscar Aertssen met last month in Balranald. Thanks to the Mayor and staff for a warm welcome. We are looking forward to building stronger ties with the traditional owners across R3.

Region 4 – Chaired by Cr Judi Harris of Mildura RCC is due to meet in the near future, with a meeting date to be announced.

Region 5 – is going well and we welcome incoming Chair Cr Kevin Myers of the Mid-Murray Council. R5 is the only region that enjoys the membership and active engagement of every council in the region. A benchmark to aspire to!

Regions 6 – Currently chaired by Cr Frank Tuckwell will hold its AGM in August. Frank has announced his retirement from the Chair, and has been working incredibly hard to engage the region and ensure a strong and stable succession. Frank, and the Alexandrina Council have shown strong leadership and region 6 remains an active and vibrant region.

Region 7 – chaired by Cr Peter Jamieson recently met in Campbelltown with a very strong attendance, and showcased some excellent water management initiatives rolled out across their region.

Region 8 – Chaired by Rod Button recently met in Port Pirie. The meeting was attended by SA Minister for Local Govt, The Hon Geoff Brock and Mayor John Rhodes, and

discussed the importance of locally driven continued engagement with local government to ensure strong representation on basin related issues.

Region 9 – Chaired by Mayor Paul Maytom met in Leeton, where it was impressed upon me that R9 is known as, and will remain the Murrumbidgee Region.

Region 10 – Chaired by Murray Wood recently met in Dubbo, with Minutes to be distributed in due course.

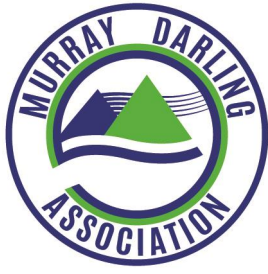
If you wish to see the minutes of any of the Region Meetings of the MDA, please contact your Regional Chair, or email admin@mda.asn.au

8. Upcoming Events

For any upcoming events in your region that you would like distributed, please contact Sandra at admin@mda.asn.au

Until the next report....

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer



Current advocacy issues

Briefing notes

June 2015

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder requires greater flexibility in water trade to facilitate investment in water efficiency infrastructure, and balanced availability of water for food producers.

Issues and opportunities

- Currently the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder is restricted in both how and when he may trade allocation and what he can do with the proceeds of any sale.
- The independent expert panel tasked to review the Water Act 2007 (Cth) recently recommended (Recommendations 15 & 16) that section 106(2) of the Act be amended to allow trade revenue to be used for other environmental activities in addition to water acquisitions to maximise environmental outcomes.
- Investing in infrastructure projects assists in economic activity and the efficient use of water both on and off farms as well as in the environment.
- Investing in water saving infrastructure measures realizes more sustainable and equitable water savings than water buyback – maximizing the value of every drop.

The current price of temporary water and its trajectory over recent seasons is constraining agriculture and is unsustainable.

Issues and opportunities

- The commodification of water is impacting water prices, with resultant detriment to the production of food and fiber.
- The more money farmers spend on water as a cost of production, the less they are able to reinvest in their communities and their future farming practice.
- The strategy of transitioning to temporary water as a production strategy presents risks to both the temporary and permanent water market.
- An investigation is required into the level of speculative investment by superannuation funds and non agriculture related enterprises.
- Water must be valued and managed in the basin as a natural resource, not a commodity.

The Water Act 2007 and the Basin Plan 2012 must provide for the balanced weighting of economic, social and environmental impacts in all decisions made under those instruments.

Issues and opportunities

- Decision makers - governments, their agencies and water managers - need to more transparently demonstrate how economic, social and environmental considerations are taken into account in decision-making under the Act and the Basin Plan. This point is recognized by the independent expert panel into reporting on the review of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth)
- An assessment is required on the impacts of the implementation of the Basin Plan on the water market and costs for remaining irrigators.
- Section 3 of The Water Act 2007 (the Act) has a requirement :
(c) ...to promote the use and management of the Basin water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes.

However

Section 21 of the Act provides the basis on which Basin Plan was developed.

Section 21 makes only 2 vague references to social (4) (b) and (4) (c) (v), and one to economic (4) (b) considerations. This is where the Act's framework for balanced social, economic and environmental consideration collapses.

- Independent, evidence based monitoring, evaluation and review (MER) is required to assess the effectiveness of achieving the social, economic and environmental objectives of the plan.
- Sustainable and resilient communities are imperative to maintaining a healthy working basin, the future of rural and regional Australia and our nation's food and fiber production.

The Federal Government's commitment to legislate to cap buybacks at 1,500 Gigalitres must be delivered, to provide security for impacted irrigators and to drive water efficiencies in other areas.

- The Government has noted it will only propose the legislation with bi-partisan support.
- The Government needs the support of Labor, and the cross bench Senators, to get any legislation through the Senate.
- Caution should be noted that the cap is an interim step only, a guarantee and is not the solution to providing security for irrigators.
- The "cap on buyback" is a maximum amount of water that may be purchased by direct tender from water owners.
- Buyback is the worst form of water recovery because it takes water out of the consumptive pool and reduces productive capacity.

- Buyback can create a 'Swiss cheese effect' in irrigation districts where operational costs remain fixed yet opportunity to recover those costs is negatively impacted through reduced delivery. Fees for remaining irrigators must go up to cover costs.

The MDBA must ensure that the 2750GL of environmental water to be recovered under the plan can be efficiently, effectively and safely delivered, and will achieve the intended outcomes.

- The Constraints Management Strategy has been criticised by many stakeholders as not reflective of the community consultations and concerns held about the ability to safely deliver larger volumes of water.
- Private property and business impacts including elevated risks of flooding caused by the proposed high level environmental flows must be assessed as part of the constraints management strategy.
- Investments in environmental efficiencies achieved through Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL*) offset projects can help reduce the social and economic impacts on affected landholders and tourism. Such projects would allow 650GL of the Basin Plan's 2750GL recovery volumes to be achieved through creating efficiencies in river operations and environmental water use.
- Supply measures are works, river operations or rule changes that enable the use of less water but still achieve the Plan's environmental outcomes. Ensuring that these measures are devised and delivered in consultation with community to ensure efficiency and effectiveness will benefit the environment and reduce the social and economic impact of water recovery to achieve the Basin Plan's goal.
- The benefits and impacts of water used for environmental purposes must be identifiable and transparent and measured via agreed monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms.



71st Annual General Meeting & National Conference

9 – 11 September 2015

Barooga and Tocumwal NSW



It's in the balance!



Speakers include:

Darryn Hartnett
Director – Enduro Capital

Julian Cribb
Author – The Coming Famine

The Hon Bob Baldwin
*Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for the Environment*

David Papps
*Commonwealth
Environmental Water Holder*

Dr Jacqui Schirmer
Snr Research Fellow UoC



Presented by:
The Murray Darling Association
Hosted by Berrigan Shire Council

In 2015, we are going back to basics for our sustainability, the very survival of our basin communities.

It's in the balance!

The Murray Darling Association was formed in 1944 as the Murray Valley Development League.

Its objective, back then, to provide sufficient water supplies and hydro-electricity to support sustainable production in agriculture, business and industry, across the basin.

We all agree, to sustain a healthy environment requires the care of a vibrant, healthy community and support from an economy sustained by a robust agricultural sector.

That means, we need the balanced implementation of the Basin Plan - to deliver on the triple bottom-line – ensuring social, economic and environmental benefits for our local communities.



WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

7.30am	Inter-regional golf competition <i>See separate flyer</i>
9:00am	Conference registration <i>Cobram Barooga Golf Club</i>
12:00pm	LUNCH Cobram Barooga Golf Club
12:45pm	Conference commences – delegate seating <i>Cobram Barooga Golf Club</i>
1:00pm	Delegates call to order
1:05pm	Welcome to our National Conference <i>National President</i>
1:10pm	“Welcome to country” <i>To be confirmed</i>
1:15pm	Mayoral welcome to Berrigan Shire <i>Cr Bernard Curtain</i>
1.20pm	Official opening <i>TBC</i>
1.30pm	Sponsor address – MDBA <i>Mr Neil Andrews, Chairman – MDBA</i>
1.40pm	Keynote presentation <i>Julian Cribb,</i> <i>Author – The Coming Famine</i>
2.10pm	Student presentation <i>Findley High</i>
2.40pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.00pm	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder <i>David Papps</i>
3.30pm	Presentation of motions
4:30pm	Conference day one concludes
5:15pm	Barooga pick-up commences for the Civic reception
5:30pm	Tocumwal pick-up commences for the Civic reception
6:00pm	CIVIC RECEPTION <i>Light finger foods</i>

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

8.45am	Partners tour
9.00am	Seating and welcome <i>Cobram-Barooga Golf Club</i>
9.15am	Keynote address <i>Darryn Hartnett,</i> <i>Director – Enduro Capital</i>
9.45am	Sponsor presentation
9.55am	Social well-being address <i>Dr Jacqui Schirmer</i> <i>Snr Research Fellow UoC</i> <i>Regional Wellbeing</i>
10.25am	MORNING TEA
10.45am	Q&A-style forum
11.15am	Constitution review presentation <i>RK Lawyers</i>
11.45am	Presentation by 2016 Conference host
12.15pm	Announcement of 2017 host region Raffle drawing Conference Close
2.00pm	Annual General Meeting <i>Cobram-Barooga Golf Club</i>
6.00pm	ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER <i>Sporties Garden Room, Cobram</i>

This program may be subject to minor changes for scheduling, but we will endeavour to keep as close as possible to what appears here.

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

8.45am to 5.15pm	Regional study tour “Getting the balance right” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paddleboat cruise• The Drop. Interpretation by a representative from Pacific Hydro and Murray Irrigation• Deniliquin Rice Mill guided tour <i>Tour includes morning tea on Thompsons Beach and lunch at North Tuppall Woolshed Bush BBQ.</i>
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PARTNERS TOUR **THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER** **8.45am – 4.15pm**

Includes:

- Byramine Homestead tour and morning tea
- Monichino for lunch
- Cobba paddleboat cruise

Please see registration form for accommodation options



Additional copies of this document can be downloaded from www.mda.asn.au



It's in the balance!



Murray Darling Association
461-463 High Street, Echuca Vic 3564
Ph 03 5480 3805 | Email admin@mda.asn.au



REGISTRATION FORM

71st Annual General Meeting & National Conference

9 – 11 September 2015, Barooga and Tocumwal NSW ABN 64 636 490 493

Personal Information

Title Cr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other

Surname First Name

Organisation

Details will be published in a delegate list for distribution. If you do not wish your details to be published, please tick this box

Address

Town State Post Code

Phone Fax

Email

Badge Name Delegate (Y/N) Partner (Y/N)

Special Dietary Requirements

Registration Fees (all registration fees include GST)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF 5% IF PAYMENT IS MADE BY 27 JULY 2015

Please indicate in the appropriate box(es) your attendance details *

<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf Ambrose Includes Green Fees, Cart or Buggy and Clubs	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegates Conference Package (Complimentary inclusion of AGM, Study Tour, Annual Dinner and Civic Reception)	\$550
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partners Package Includes Partners Tour, Study Tour, Annual Dinner and Civic Reception	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Dinner only Thursday 10 September	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partners Tour only Thursday 10 September 8.45am – 4.15pm	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study Tour only Includes, lunch, morning /afternoon tea Friday 11 September	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/>	Civic Reception Wednesday 9 September 6.00pm	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual General Meeting Thursday 10 September 2.00pm – 4.00pm	\$0

Registration Total

*Accommodation not included. Details of available accommodation options listed overleaf.

Payment Methods

- Cheques** Made payable to: **Murray Darling Association Inc.** PO Box 1268 Echuca Vic 3564
- EFT** Banking Details: Bank **ANZ Bank** | BSB **012 505** | Account Number **2139 06893**
If paying electronically please send remittance to admin@mda.asn.au



Accommodation Options

Please use www.toconthemurray.com.au for more detail about each property

Tocumwal Accommodation

Kanimbla Motor Inn ★★★★★ www.toconthemurray.com.au	03 5874 2755	Fairway Views ★★★★★ www.tocumwalgolf.com.au	03 5874 2877
Thomas Lodge Motel ★★★ www.thomaslodge.com.au	03 5874 2344	Tocumwal Golf Resort ★★★★★ ★★★★★ www.tocgolfresort.com.a	03 5874 2300
Palms Hotel/Motel ★★★ www.tocumwalmotel.com.au	03 5874 2025	Eliza's on the Murray (Villas) ★★★★★ www.elizasonthemurray.com	03 5874 2699
Bakery Park ★★★★★ www.bakerypark.com.au	03 5874 2490	Langford House B and B ★★★★★ www.langfordhouse.com.au	03 5874 2000
Kingswood ★★★★★ www.kingswoodmotel.com.au	03 5874 2444	Tocumwal Motel ★★★ www.tocumwalmotel.com.au	03 5874 3022
Greenways ★★★★★ www.greenwaysholidayunit	03 5874 2882	Big 4 Tocumwal ★★★★★ www.tocumwaltouristpark.com.au	03 5874 2768
Tocumwal All Seasons ★★★★★ www.tocumwalallseasons.com.au	03 5874 2423	Boomerang Way Tourist Park ★★★★★ www.boomerangwaytouristpark.com.au	03 5874 2313
Early Settlers ★★★ www.tocumwalgolf.com.au	03 5874 2300	Bushlands on the Murray ★★★★★ ★★★★★ www.bushlandsonthemurray.com.au	03 5874 2752

Barooga Accommodation

Bullanginya Lodge, SC Units ★★★★★ www.bullanginyalodge.com	03 5873 4636	El Sierra Motel ★★★ www.toconthemurray.com.au	03 5873 4477
Sportsman's Motor Inn ★★★★★ www.sportsmansmotorinn.com.au	03 5873 4444	Brolgaroo Caravan Park ★★★ www.toconthemurray.com.au	03 5873 4331
Sporties Golf Club Resort ★★★★★ www.sporties.com.au	03 5873 4304	Cobram Barooga Golf Resort ★★★★★ www.golfresort.com.au	03 5873 4523
Barooga Golf View Motel ★★★★★ www.baroogagolfview.com.au	03 5873 4555	Barooga River Gums Motel ★★★ www.rivergumsmotorinn.com	03 5873 4575
Sunrise Motel ★★★★★ www.sunrisemotel.com.au	03 5873 4402	Barooga Country Inn Motel ★★★★★ www.golfclubmotel.com.au	03 5873 4357

Finley and Berrigan Accommodation

Berrigan Motel ★★★ www.berriganmotel.com.au	03 5885 2831	Finley Motel www.finleymotel.webs.com	03 5883 1088
Finley Palm Motor Inn ★★★ www.finleypalmmotorinn.onestophoteldeals.com	03 5883 2077	The Century Motel www.toconthemurray.com.au	



2015 inter-region golf tournament



The magnificent Tocumwal Golf Club is the venue for our inter-regional golf tournament, held in conjunction with the Murray Darling Association annual conference and AGM.

- It's an ambrose event so we are calling for teams of 4.
- Individual registrations can be placed in a team.
- Prizes to be presented at the conference dinner.
- First tee time: 7.00am
Tocumwal Golf Club
Wednesday 9 September 2015
- Entry fee is \$70 per person



To help enable the smooth-running of this inaugural event, please email your expression of interest and team entry details by **Tuesday 25 August** to Sandra Adams: admin@mda.asn.au or phone **03 5480 3805**

Region:

Chairman's Nominee:

Team Name:

Players: 1

3

2

4