



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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P.O. Box 359  
Albury, NSW 2640

## Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

**Date:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015

*Following on from the AGM*

**Location:** Coorong District Council Civic Centre  
"Sturt Board Room"

**Address:** 95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend SA 5260

## AGENDA

1. **ATTENDANCE**
  - 1.1 Present:
  - 1.2 Apologies:
2. **WELCOME**
  - 2.1 Welcome to Coorong District Council
  - 2.2 Chairman Introduction
    - 2.2.1 Chairman's Report
  - 2.3 Conflict of Interest
3. **MINUTES**
  - 3.1 Minutes of the previous R6 Ordinary Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Murray Bridge
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
  - 4.1 From minutes of previous meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015
    - 4.1.1 Broken Hill Council – Media article regarding water supply (*refer to attachment 4.1.1*)
5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
  - 5.1 Progress Report Wyndgate Project
  - 5.2 Barrage Memorial Proposal
6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
7. **GUEST SPEAKER**

Jarrold Eaton – Department Environment, Water & Natural Resources  
Murray Mouth Dredging Project
8. **NEXT MEETING**
9. **CLOSE**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
Coorong District Council for their support in  
hosting this meeting of Region 6*

### REGION 6 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT July 20

The past 5 or 6 weeks has been an extremely busy time for R6 in the preparation for AGM and the new nomination procedures as well as the special meeting to workshop the MDA governance proposal paper on June 5 at Goolwa, and the wrap-up of the region's response at the Region 6 meeting at Murray Bridge on June 26.

The members should be proud of the way they gathered together over those two meetings in developing the region's views and concerns regarding that response. The MDA is a member-driven organisation so we are all responsible in determining the way change comes. In having responded as we have is not the end of it, only the beginning, as whenever proposals for such changes are put to a future Association AGM we can again add voice in debate in general council session on the matter.

Circumstances prevented me from attending the R6 meeting at Murray Bridge on June 26, so I take this opportunity to thank Cr Barry Featherston for stepping up into the chair and for skillfully guiding the meeting through the mass of dot points to finally produce the response. Thanks also to Cr Mike Scott ASM, Alexandrina's official proxy who attended that meeting as a voting member. Because of my wife's present condition taking more of my time, I think you'll see and hear a lot more of Mike as we'll share Alexandrina Council's representation. In the event of my absence he will be the alternate delegate.

Thanks also to Danae Cates for her great work in carrying out the R6 secretarial duties for me, and for so quickly grasping the essentials and performing the role in the excellent manner she has. And to her department manager Simon Grenfell for granting us not only Danae's time, but also for his support and attendance whenever he could. Likewise to CEO Peter Dinning and P.A. Margaret Terrell, Mayor Keith Parkes and my fellow elected members at Alexandrina, my thanks for their support.

And thanks to you all at R6 for your help, support, persistence and loyalty during my short time in the chair. As I will hold no office after the AGM, I will be able to enjoy the company of Keith 'Scobes' Scobie, my old colleague and friend as an ordinary member of R6.

With regards to you all

Frank

Frank Tuckwell OAM  
Chairman  
MDA Region 6



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## Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

**Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Time: 9:30am for 10am Start

**Location:** Rural City of Murray Bridge Local Government Centre  
"Mobilong Suite"

**Address:** 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge SA 5253

## MINUTES (draft)

### 1. ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 **Present:** Cr Barry Featherston (Acting Chair), Cr Michael Scott (Alexandrina Council), Vern Leng (Member), Ian Mann OAM (Member), Lesley Fischer (Member), Mick Fischer (Member), Terry Franklin (River Watch), Cr Peter Wright (Coorong District Council), Danae Cates (Acting Secretary – Alexandrina Council)
- 1.2 **Apologies:** Cr Frank Tuckwell - Chair (Alexandrina Council), Robert Sexton (Mayor Southern Mallee), Brenton Lewis (CE – Regional Development Australia), Keith Scobie (Member), Bill Bagley (Member), Keith Loeser (Member), Sam Dodd (Chair Meningie Narrung Lakes Irrigators Association), Lindsay Barber, Simon Grenfell (Alexandrina Council)

### 2. WELCOME

- 2.1 Welcome to Rural City of Murray Bridge
- 2.2 Cr Barry Featherston (Alexandrina Council) – *Acting* Chair Region 6
- 2.3 Conflict of Interest

### 3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the previous R6 Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Strathalbyn
- 3.1.1 No lock below Blanchtown – opposed to being at Coolcha  
**Moved Ian Mann, Seconded Vern Leng**  
**CARRIED**
- 3.2 Minutes of Special Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Goolwa
- 3.2.1 Add list of members present – to be re-circulated  
TABLED – No formal resolution required.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 From minutes of previous meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- 4.1.1 Federal Money \$24m is no longer available.
- 4.1.2 Broken Hill Council – Re: SA taking our water, this is just a statement from Broken Hill, not official.
- 4.1.2.1 **ACTION** - Danae to research information and circulate to R6 for further discussion with the view to allow us to send a formal response back to Broken Hill Council and Region 4 in response to these comments. Peter to assist.

**Moved Michael Scott, Seconded Vern Leng**

**CARRIED**

4.1.3 Region 6 write to Minister of River Murray – there has been correspondence – Refer to Correspondence response received.

4.1.3.1 To be discussed in detail at first meeting, after AGM, as Lake Albert has not recovered. (Coorong to assist DC in prep of Agenda item for this)

4.1.3.2 Fur Seals – Discussions been held, report received from Southern Fisheries, an update was provided, Danae will circulate information.

4.1.3.2.1.1 Need to push through RAMSAR for support

4.1.3.2.1.2 Letter of support from R6 to support Fisheries industry

4.1.3.2.1.3 R6 to respond to letter from Minister Hunter, urging state government to reconsider it's policy – Also send copy of letter to R5 seeking their support and also letter to Federal Exec stating not happy with their response (as detailed in paragraph 4)

Also provide CC copy of correspondence to inform Federal Fisheries Ministers to raise the issues on how the Southern Fisheries are being affected for their information.

And send copies to those who have responded to us on this issue.

**Moved Ian Mann, Seconded Vern Leng**

**CARRIED**

4.2 From minutes of Special Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – for information, no endorsement required as it was Special Meeting.

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

5.1 Chairman's Report from Chairman Frank Tuckwell – Noted and Tabled.

**Moved Ian Mann, Seconded Terry Franklin**

**CARRIED**

Any feedback please refer to Frank Tuckwell

- Need copy of minutes of National Board Meeting (MDA) which outlines Mid-Murray to go to R5.

**ACTION:** Chairman Frank Tuckwell to table at next meeting for discussion.

5.2 Formulation of R6 Response regarding MDA Governance Model Review discussion paper

5.2.1 Is there any late submissions

5.2.2 Finalise R6 Response to MDA Governance Model Review

**FINAL FEEDBACK / RESOLUTION**

- 1. We reject the currently proposed model of board of directors and therefore the Committee of Regional Chairs.**
- 2. The Board to be made up of all Regional Chairs at this stage would be a 12 member board.**
- 3. The Chair to be elected from the board and by the board.**

4. **The MDA should be a member driven board**
5. **That the State Regions as a collective liaise at least twice a year with their own State Government bodies on MDA matters.**
  - i. **In principal the board should negotiate with the federal government on MDA matters**
6. **That Board Chairs for each region serve no more than 2 council terms (6-8 years).**
7. **Each region should select it's chair so that person is aware of their obligations under the four dot points, of**
  - a. A stable succession plan, capturing and retaining the knowledge and experience of our current board
  - b. The development and implementation of a Corporate Plan to articulate the strategic direction of the organisation and provide clear direction into the future
  - c. The delivery of stronger, skills based financial, corporate and compliance oversight of the Association
  - d. Enhanced value to members through clarity of purpose and structured advocacy capacities
8. **The board can appoint skill based sub-committees as required.**
9. **It is expected that the board will appoint a CEO that can comply with the obligations,**
  - a. A stable succession plan, capturing and retaining the knowledge and experience of our current board
  - b. The development and implementation of a Corporate Plan to articulate the strategic direction of the organisation and provide clear direction into the future
  - c. The delivery of stronger, skills based financial, corporate and compliance oversight of the Association
  - d. Enhanced value to members through clarity of purpose and structured advocacy capacities

**Moved Ian Mann , Seconded Michael Scott  
CARRIED**

5.3 Discussion Paper as supplied by the CEO Emma Bradbury and comments contained within, in regards to board member councils.

Resolution

That All financial member councils, associations and private members as per the constitution be entitled to have input into the Governance Model Review discussion paper. That the CEO ensures all above members are forwarded the discussion paper and are given appropriate time to respond.

**Moved Vern Leng, Seconded Michael Scott  
CARRIED**

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 6.1 Annual General Meeting  
Tentative – Date to be advised. *Originally announced for 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015*  
At Coorong District Council – Civic Centre, “Sturt Board Room”  
95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend SA 5260  
\*\*AGM Date to be clarified and may need to change  
\*\* Guest Speaker – Re Murray Mouth Dredging Project Jarrod Eaton (DEWNR) and also Paul Harvey regarding the effect of climate change on the barrages and Murray Mouth.
- 6.2 100% allocation has been announced for SA irrigators for 2015-16 water year.

- 6.3 That the Coorong Lower Lakes Tourism & Environmental Group, particularly notes relevant to murray darling flow report from Paul Harvey, be provided to Region 6. – Danae to circulate once received.

OTHER ACTIONS

- MDA to provide up to date mailing list for Council delegates within R6. As well as all contact details for private and business members, within our Region.
- Next Meeting – issues regarding climate change and the barrages be listed for discussion at the next meeting.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

AGM & Ordinary Meeting – Date to be advised.

**8. CLOSE**

***Meeting closed 12:42pm***

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks  
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## Broken Hill faces another water crisis as drought lingers and Menindee Lakes dry up

Landline By Ginny Stein

Updated Sat 21 Mar 2015, 7:03am



PHOTO: This Broken Hill flood marker hasn't been needed for a while. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

**For the third time this century, one of Australia's most iconic inland cities is facing a critical water crisis.**

Broken Hill was founded in the 1880s and the city's riches beneath the ground played a pivotal role in helping power a new nation.

Its reputation as the birthplace of modern Australia was cemented earlier this year when it became the first Australian city to be heritage listed.

But more than a century after its birth, Broken Hill is yet to find a permanent water source to ensure its survival.

Located close to the border with South Australia, and more than 1,000 kilometres from Sydney, Broken Hill has an average annual rainfall of 235 millimetres, not enough to support a population of 19,000 people and the mining industry.

RELATED STORY: Broken Hill becomes first Australian city to join National Heritage List

RELATED STORY: Labor to match Coalition's \$117 million water security promise

MAP: Broken Hill 2880





PHOTO: The town of Broken Hill does not have a reliable source of water and is facing another water crisis. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

Broken Hill is Australia's longest lived mining city. BHP Billiton, one of the world's largest mining companies, has its roots in the town.

With the region firmly in the grip of drought, and with its water supplies dwindling, authorities last year warned the city may run out of water by August.

Although recent rain extended supplies, it is a crisis that is yet to be solved.



PHOTO: The largest of the lakes which make up the Menindee Lakes storage system is now bone dry. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

The Menindee Lakes system is a chain of shallow freshwater lakes connected to the Darling River to form a storage system.

The system was originally built for town water supplies, river flows and domestic requirements, irrigated industries and environmental flows.

In the 1950s multiple weirs and a concrete spillway were built across the seven-lake system.

When full, the Menindee Lakes are more than three times the size of Sydney Harbour.

But over time, the enormous shallow dams which began as little more than natural depressions that filled during flood events, have silted up.

Lake Menindee - the largest of the lakes which make up the Menindee Lakes storage system - is now bone dry.





PHOTO: A drilling crew sets up a drilling rig to search for ground water near Menindee. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

## Why is Broken Hill running out of water?

Australia is becoming increasingly dry and with population growth there is increased demand for water.

In times of crisis, the policies of the Federal and New South Wales governments have been questioned.

The Murray Darling Basin Authority works with Federal Government agencies to manage and share the water that flows through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The New South Wales Government takes over the control of the lakes when the water level drops below a certain volume.

The simple truth is the region needs rain.



PHOTO: Workers watch a water drilling rig as it drills into the earth near Menindee. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

The search for a solution to Broken Hill's crisis that does not involve rain is now underway.

The only certainty so far, is that no-one knows what the solution is.

Though bore water is essential in the region, there are people who oppose it.

They fear that relying on bore water may lead to authorities giving up on maintaining the lakes system for recreational use.

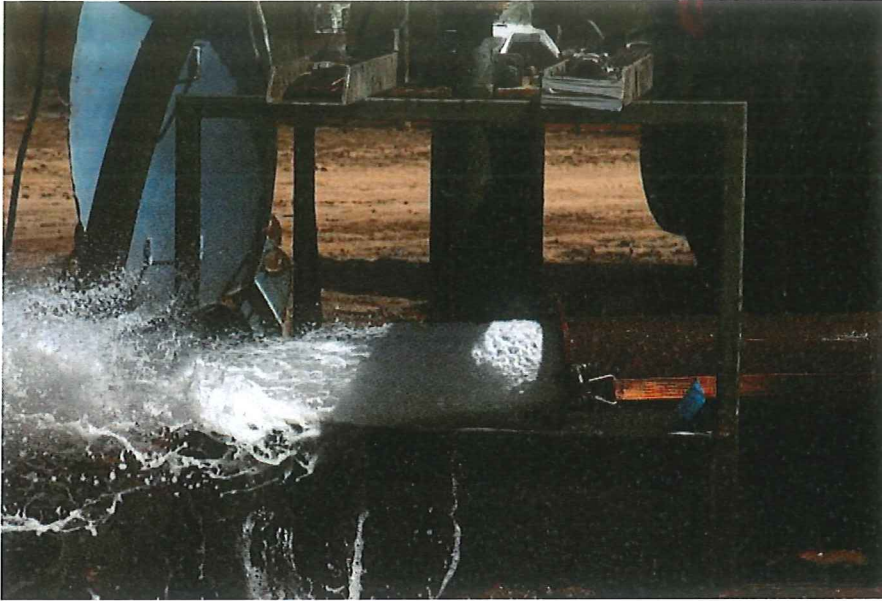


PHOTO: Success as water gushes from a newly drilled bore near Menindee. (ABC News: Ginny Stein)

Topics: drought, water-supply, water-management, water, environment, broken-hill-2880, nsw, australia

First posted Sat 21 Mar 2015, 6:56am