



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Region 5

www.mda.asn.au ABN: 64 636 490 493

Chairperson:
Peter Hunter

Hosting Council:
Renmark Paringa Council

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MDA Region 5 Meeting Minutes

14th May, 2018

Waikerie Council Chambers

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

- Cr Mark Ward – Loxton Waikerie
- Cr Kym Webber – Loxton Waikerie
- Cr Peter Raison – Mid Murray
- Ian Mann - Private Member
- Myles Fauser – EO, Renmark Paringa
- Cr Peter Hunter – Chair – Renmark Paringa

1.2 Apologies:

- Cr Adrian Saako – Mid Murray
- Cr Allan Maddocks – Renmark Paringa
- Mayor Neil Martinson – Renmark Paringa

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration – Material / Actual / Perceived - Nil

2. WELCOME

Peter Hunter – Deputy Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council

Special Welcome via Video Link to:

- Emma Bradbury – CEO, MDA
- Matt Barwick – National Carp Plan

Emma Bradbury:

- NSW Water Reform Action Plan:
 - Now closed but significant MDA Input re actions
 - Have appointed Staff & CEO (Grant Brent)
- Productivity Commission:
 - MDA on Working Group
 - Emphasis on the 3 levels of government by MDA
 - Key focus on Monitoring & Evaluation
- Enquiry into Environmental Water:
 - Scientists vary in views
 - Some based on old data (over 10 years in some cases)
 - Very little input from non-environmental groups
- SA Royal Commission into MDB Plan:
 - Frustrations in Canberra re questions of MDB Plan legality

- Disallowance Motion:
 - Last Minute agreement from major parties
 - Minister Littleproud has good understanding of issues / balanced view / interested in outcomes
 - Northern Basin Disallowance to be revisited
 - Query from Matt re why fishways / fish migration aspects have been deleted from current agreement, at the last 'minute'.
- SDL Adjustments:
 - Question: - 36 efficiency projects – only one based on science. Will they deliver?
 - Projects are the responsibility of the states at this stage & they have until 2024 to deliver on promises
 - MDBA needs to provide greater information on the projects
 - Importance of rigor being applied
 - Community input VIP
- Socio Economic Neutrality Test - clarity
 - Need to know what it looks like
 - MDA proposal & research collaboratively
 - Agreed Framework for neutrality test VIP
 - Accountability / proof on agreed framework VIP

Matt Barwick:

- Excellent Power Point display of complexity & trials being undertaken
- Very much a multi-faceted approach
- Community understanding & input vital
- 82 information session to date – broader community sessions begin in July
- Research VIP
- Need to understand the virus / carefully consider the risks / Deal with laws & regulations / define benefits & costs
- Copies to be distributed to members but not available for broad distribution at this stage

Both presenters were thanked for their valuable input & discussions which ensued.

National Carp Control Plan Position Paper

- Initial thoughts / inputs were sought at the meeting:
 - Living Document & need to continue its development in an ongoing fashion, rather than see it as an end point.
 - Key overriding concept to be the focus on a functioning, healthy river system for all
 - Partnerships VIP – including Local Government / Fishermen / Broader Community Members
 - Monitoring of water quality prior, during release & post vital
 - Restocking VIP & SA's need to match other states with a significant increase a.s.a.p. 'Hardening' of fingerlings important.
 - Removal of biomass in timely, planned manner & developing creative options for reuse / alternate streams / products
 - Importance of building trust within community
 - Importance of consideration / monitoring of environmental impact well beyond implementation
- Power point to be distributed & members asked to input further inclusions within one week of the information being distributed

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 19th March, 2018** (previously sent out 4th April, 2018)

Moved: Cr Peter Raison

That the minutes of the meeting of the MDA Region 5 held in Berri, on the 19th March, 2018 are a true & accurate record of the meeting.

Seconded: Cr Mark Ward

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 SA / Regional Cooperation - Joint Meeting/s with Region 6 / SA Region

- Shann Mann appointed to 0.2 position – funded by councils
- Potential for broader / managed & planned activities
- Future joint meetings likely

4.2 Clarity re representatives with voting rights for the AGM in Leeton

- One per council (none large enough for second person). Individual councils to nominate
- Up to three private members (not council based) can be appointed also
- Should others nominate, they be considered, if members

It was resolved that Ian Mann be appointed as private member representative from Region 5 with voting rights.

4.3 Proxy delegates to be nominated & utilised

- Delegates were reminded of the importance of nominating / encouraging proxies

4.4 Clarity re Karoonda Easy Murray & Region (5 or 6?) Links

- No further information available at this stage

5. **MDA REGION 5 UPDATE**

5.1 Correspondence to members:

- Noted
- Additional item circulated (from 8th May) for members interest. This has also been emailed to members (late) on the 13th May.

6. **MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM**

6.1 MDA National Conference to be held in Leeton, NSW – 29th & 30th August, 2018

- Reminder for members

6.2 MDA Newsletter / information Flow

- Significant support for MDA newsletter was expressed

7. PLANNING & COORDINATION

- 7.1 Frequency / Location / Timing of Region 5 Meetings
- Future Meetings Plan confirmed – Next Meeting:
 - Monday, 30th July – (follows Board Meeting & planning for AGM - discuss items for Aug AGM) @ Morgan
- 7.2 Topics / Guest Speakers:
- Next Meeting:
 - DEW representative for update on departments / recent activities
 - Potential follow up on SA Royal Commission – esp. re the legality of Basin Plan

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 Future Position Papers / Discussion
- National Carp Control Plan – as previously discussed
 - Renmark Paringa 'Blue Economy' Proposal – presented by Myles Fauser
 - Considerable support was expressed for:
 - Renmark Paringa Proposal & innovative solutions
 - Locally based solutions
 - Involvement of councils / communities which wish to contribute
 - Utilization of current facilities / community groups / businesses

8.5 Any Other General Business

Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday, 30th July
Time: 9:30 for 10am
Location: Morgan Council Chambers

Room Booking / Morning Tea / Set Up & Preparation Responsibilities:

10. CLOSE – members were thanked for their attendance & involvement

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