



# 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 AGM Meeting

Wednesday 10 August 2022 – 2:30pm AEST

Venue: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

## MINUTES

### 1. ATTENDANCE

Meeting opened at 2:35pm

Cr Jason Modica (Mildura Rural City Council)	Tim Phillips (MDA)
Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)	Mike Colreavy (Balranald Shire Council)
Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)	Jay Nankivell (Broken Hill City Council)
Cr Daniel Linklater ( <i>connection dropped out just prior to commencement of item 4.5 - Cr Linklater did not re-join the meeting</i> )	Larni Baird (Mildura Rural City Council)
	Penny Robinson (Mildura Rural City Council)

*Cr Modica as chair, noted that there was a sufficient voting quorum to proceed with the meeting.*

### 2. APOLOGIES

Mark Lamb (MDA)  
Cr Tim Elstone (Wentworth Shire Council)  
Jeffery Sowiak (Balranald Shire Council)  
Cr Marion Browne (Broken Hill City Council)

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

### 4. Motions to be presented for consideration to the MDA Conference/AGM 2022

#### 4.1 Proposed Motion 1 - Mildura Rural City Council

##### Motion

*To make a commitment based on science to increase the volume of water in the environmental account. With the intent of rejuvenating the health of waterways in Murray Darling Barka Basin in the driest and drought years. Considering system intake variability ephemerality and climate change.*

**Resolution: Carried**

**Moved:** Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)

**Seconded:** Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

#### **4.2 Proposed Motion 2 - Mildura Rural City Council**

##### **Motion**

*There is an immediate need for Federal, State and Municipal governments to introduce a moratorium on new agricultural and horticultural Developments. A Consideration of the capacity to develop new agricultural and horticultural land in The Murray Darling Barka Basin is an essential step in ensuring sustainability. A moratorium would assess the multiplicity of factors overlaid on the basin, including inflows, markets, politics, climate change and river system regeneration.*

##### **Resolution: Carried**

**Moved:** Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

**Seconded:** Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)

#### **4.3 Proposed Motion 3 - Mildura Rural City Council**

##### **Motion**

A further exploration of the listing of the Menindee lakes as a Ramsar site. The Menindee Lakes are a refuge for people, fish, frogs, flora and fauna. Region 4 request the MDA write to the relevant Federal and State Ministers seeking support in prioritizing the Menindee Lakes as a Ramsar site.

##### **Resolution: Carried**

**Moved:** Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)

**Seconded:** Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

#### **4.4 Proposed Motion 4 - Mildura Rural City Council**

##### **Motion**

A call to legislate the volume of floodplain harvesting to the 1995 Cap for the protection and environmental integrity of Northern NSW, Southern Queensland Rivers and Barwon Darling Barka Rivers.

##### **Resolution: Carried**

**Moved:** Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

**Seconded:** Cr Daniel Linklater (Wentworth Shire Council)

*At this point Cr Daniel Linklater's connection disconnected and he did not rejoin for the remainder of the meeting.*

#### **4.5 Late Proposed Motion 5 - Broken Hill City Council, Central Darling Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council.**

##### **Motion**

To call for an amendment to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment's Western Regional Water Strategy to increase the critical dry conditions trigger for the Menindee Lakes System from 195GL of total storage across all Lakes - to 480GL of total storage in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo only, which will guarantee an accessible 12 month quality water supply for critical environmental and human needs for river communities and First Nations lands of the Lower Darling-Barka.

To express disappointment and dismay that public consultation of the Draft Western Regional Water Strategy failed to adequately consult the river communities of the Lower Darling-Barka; and that it has just recently been purported in media that Ministerial approval of the Draft Strategy has been given whilst public consultation was still ongoing and before the department had reported its findings.

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The above motion was discussed and after advice from Mildura Rural City Council's Manager Governance & Performance, Region 4 Council members agreed to amend the motion to the below:

**Motion**

To:

- a) *Express disappointment and dismay that public consultation of the Draft Western Regional Water Strategy failed to adequately consult the river communities of the Lower Darling-Barka; and that it has just recently been purported in media that Ministerial approval of the Draft Strategy has been given whilst public consultation was still ongoing and before the department had reported its findings.*
  
- b) *Call for an amendment to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment's Western Regional Water Strategy to increase the critical dry conditions trigger for the Menindee Lakes System from 195GL of total storage across all Lakes - to 480GL of total storage in Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo only, which will guarantee an accessible 12 month quality water supply for critical environmental and human needs for river communities and First Nations lands of the Lower Darling-Barka.*

**Resolution: Carried**

**Moved:** Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)

**Seconded:** Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

**5. CALL FOR ANY OTHER LATE MOTIONS**

Nil

**6. CLOSE - 2:49pm**