

Region 4 Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 24 September 2019 – 2:30pm EST

Venue: The Midway Centre, 6 Midway Drive, Buronga, NSW

AGENDA

1. ATTENDANCE

2. APOLOGIES

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. WELCOME

Cr MacAllister

5. MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 June 2019 (**refer Attachment A**)

6. PRESENTATION

EnviroSonic presentation by Peter Harries – further information available [here](#)

7. BUSINESS ARISING

8. REPORTS

The following verbal reports to be provided

8.1 Chairman's Report – Cr MacAllister

8.2 Council Reports – each Council to provide a verbal update of activities from their region

8.3 Water Meetings Attended

- Toorale Water Infrastructure / Management Project Information Session – further information available [here](#)
- Floodplain Harvesting Public Information Sessions – further information available [here](#)
- Draft Water Resource Plan and Draft Water Sharing Plans Public Exhibition - Information Session – further information available [here](#)

8.4 Tocumwal Rally

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 MDA Position on water market conduct and reform (**refer Attachment B**)

9.2 MDA Annual Conference 2019 – Toowoomba – further information available [here](#)

9.3 Cubbie Station Tour (**refer Attachment C**)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11. CLOSE

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



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Region 4 ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Location:	Midway Centre, 6 Midway Drive, Buronga, NSW
Time:	11:30am EST
Date:	Friday 28 June 2019

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present:

In Person	By Videoconference
Cr Jane MacAllister (Wentworth Shire Council)	Cr Darriea Turley (Broken Hill City Council)
Ken Ross (Wentworth Shire Council)	Cr Marion Browne (Broken Hill City Council)
Cr Steve O'Halloran (Balranald Shire Council)	James Roncon (Broken Hill City Council)
Cr Trevor Joliffe (Balranald Shire Council)	Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)
Cr Jason Modica (Mildura Rural City Council)	Emma Bradbury (MDA) joined 12.15pm

1.2. Apologies:

Cr Melisa Hederics (Wentworth Shire Council); Cr Tim Elstone (Wentworth Shire Council); Cr Steve Heywood (Wentworth Shire Council)

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting on 22 November 2018 were declared as read and accepted as a true record.

Moved by Cr Modica and seconded by Greg Hill

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Cr MacAllister noted that there was a subsequent meeting for strategic planning, which was overshadowed by the first of three fish kills at Menindee.

4. REPORTS

5.1 Central Darling Shire

Greg Hill reported that:

- WaterNSW had made a presentation to the community and provided increased consultation with particularly the Aboriginal community, especially around potential employment;

- The new weir for Wilcannia has been promised, to be positioned 5.2km downstream from the existing weir, which should increase capacity by 175%, with additional height of 1.2 metres, including new fish ladder, to be completed by 2022;
- Salinity levels at weir pool remain high (3200 ppm), quality not good, so bores are providing town supply;
- Carting potable water still available on request;
- Fish kill clean up procedure to be referred to Joint Organisation for further discussion;

5.2 Broken Hill City Council

Mayor Darriea Turley advised that Broken Hill has endorsed motion to investigate listing Menindee on RAMSAR convention.

Greg Hill said Central Darling Shire also endorsed and that RAMSAR listing for Menindee would be Moved at the Western Division Group Of Councils

Cr MacAllister noted that along with Broken Hill and Central Darling, Wentworth and Balranald Shire Councils had also endorsed RAMSAR listing for Menindee Lakes. Cr Modica said a Report was due to be put before Mildura Rural City Council at a future meeting.

Greg Hill Moved That Region 4 of the Murray Darling Association endorse RAMSAR listing for Menindee Lakes and further, bring the motion to MDA Annual Conference for consideration. Seconded by Cr Marion Browne. CARRIED

Broken Hill mentioned IPart Determination around water pricing: specifically that the pipeline cost would be not included in pricing for the next four years, no more than the CPI, but that it had been put into the political cycle, without consultation. Letter requesting further consideration and clarification had been sent.

5.3 Balranald Shire Council

Cr Steve O'Halloran said on the back of a fish kill in 2010, the Murrumbidgee was again expecting water supply issues to impact by Oct / Nov this year, if no substantial rains, they would have hoped someone would have got the message.

Rain is needed urgently. Environmental water is needed for the river. The quality of water in the Murrumbidgee is very poor. They are currently carting water and don't know where water is going to come from.

5.4 Mildura Rural City Council

Cr Modica said the 4,500 established almond trees will combine with the proposed expansion of another 15,000 to total around 80,000 in the "Golden Triangle", which Almond Board Of Australia called for a moratorium on development of greenfield sites, until water supply can be quantified and constraints managed.

Cr Darriea Turley said that Hazel nuts are also a concern.

Cr Trevor Joliffe said the development on the Hay plains - turkey nest dams - big concern, 6-8,000 ha around Balranald, but also table and wine grapes (400megs goes to grapes & almonds). Council wants to have input re CEWH flow schedule.

Cr Steve O'Halloran said desilting the river needs to be done.

5.5 MDA Report

Emma Bradbury explained that the Board should comprise at least 2 and not more than 5 Executive Committee. A Secretariat role was also required to support the Chair with arranging meetings, sending out agendas, producing minutes and recording action items. This was not an elected position but a required position, supported through the Chair's relevant Council.

Emma also discussed:

- Entering into an MOU between MDBA and MDA which would provide clear recognition of need for community representation. Aim to map out an annual plan and report on plan annually;
- Connecting Catchments and Communities next session “from Moira to Mildura” to be held in Euston. It will feature MDBA & CEWH, constraints management team, RiverOps, and hopefully the states - Barham Choke: Asset or impediment? Regional growth and water markets, water broker, collaboration required (cf Tooleybuc managing risks and opportunities).
- Annual conference in Toowoomba 22-24 October public/private, hub n spoke engagement “Regenerative Agriculture”

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Greg Hill said Menindee had set up a focus group which DOI Water were engaging with re SDL Project. About 10 representatives, from Menindee Water Users Group, Progress Association, Tourism, Aboriginal Community, Irrigators. They are seeking community input into ideas other than what has been proposed.

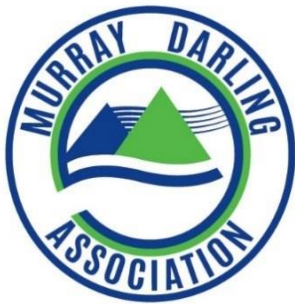
Meeting with someone called Erin, monthly, also a facilitator. The meetings are closed and they hope to have a decision by April / May 2020.

Also discussed plans for Fish Hatchery at Menindee. Dept Ag Education / Research / Cultural Centre, focussed on the Lakes and fish habitats, will take a couple of years to get established.

He said there was some negativity re fish hatchery - some see it as a “cop out”.

6. Next Meeting - tba

7. Meeting closed - 12.35pm



Position Statement

Monday 16th September 2019

MDA position on water market conduct and reform

Continuing drought, changing water availability, escalating water prices and emerging developments in horticulture and agriculture in the Murray Darling Basin are conspiring to place real pressure on rural and regional communities, and uncertainty in our towns and cities. The absence of adequate regulation of the water market is significantly compounding these pressures.

The MDA supports the commitment by the government to direct the ACCC to conduct an inquiry into markets for tradeable water rights in the Murray-Darling Basin, and urges that governments make every effort to expedite practical responses to calls from local government, business and industry to remedy deficiencies in the market.

The MDA further supports the call by a range of peak and industry bodies for government to initiate an immediate ASIC and/or ACCC investigation into whether current trading practice is consistent with corporations, consumer and competition law, for all water brokers to be licensed and regulated; for brokers to be prohibited from holding and trading water on their own accounts, or from representing both parties to a trade; for the creation of a single MDB water exchange; for mandatory price reporting, for justification of \$0 trades to be made mandatory on all trade registrations, and for increased transparency via live time trade reporting.

As the peak body for local government, the MDA reaffirms our call for immediate action in response to recommendations for reform from the many previous inquiries, commissions and expert reports. The MDA is further seeking to include local councils in development approval processes for water dependent developments in order to establish balance and ensure sustainable system-wide water security and deliverability in the southern Basin.

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*

Attachment C



CUBBIE STATION TOUR

25-26 October 2019

Cubbie wish to extend a warm invitation to all delegates attending the Murray Darling Association 75th National Conference to travel out and kick a few clods at Cubbie Station.

– Paul Brimblecombe, Chief Executive Officer.



Cubbie Station:

- 80,000 ha
19,000 ha
irrigation area
- LTA water use
7.5 ML/ha



Proudly sponsored by:



Friday 25 October 2019

7:00 am Depart Neil Street Interchange, Toowoomba

Travel on luxury air conditioned coach.
Brief stop for morning tea.

12:30 pm Lunch at Dirran Pub, Dirranbandi

1:45 pm Arrive Cubbie Station

Delegates will tour the nationally significant Cubbie Station with detailed and up to the minute information provided by Paul Brimblecombe as your tour guide.

6:00 pm Depart Cubbie Station.

7:00 pm BBQ dinner and overnight stay at Dirranbandi.

Accommodation included.

Saturday 26 October 2019

8:00 am Depart Dirranbandi

Return journey to Toowoomba. Morning tea provided and stop for lunch at Goondiwindi.

3:00 pm Arrive Neil Street Interchange, Toowoomba

This tour is only available to MDA

Conference delegates.

Register for the tour at www.mda.asn.au

or contact the Murray Darling Association office on **03 5480 3805**.

**COST
OF TOUR
\$245pp**

Cubbie Ag management believes that the production of irrigated agriculture and a viable environment can co-exist. Come and see for yourself.