



## Region 4 Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 9 June 2020 – 1:00pm EST

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

### MINUTES

#### 1. ATTENDANCE Meeting opened at 1pm

In Person	By Teleconference
Cr Jane MacAllister (Wentworth Shire Council)	Cr Darriea Turley (Broken Hill City Council)
Cr Jason Modica (Mildura Rural City Council)	Emma Bradbury (CEO – MDA)
Ken Ross (Wentworth Shire Council)	Greg Hill (Central Darling Shire Council)

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Cr Marion Browne (Broken Hill City Council)  
Cr Tim Elstone (Wentworth Shire Council)  
Cr Anthony Cirillo (Mildura Rural City Council)

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

#### 4. WELCOME

Cr MacAllister – Chair advised a reshuffle of the meeting and that the Emma Bradbury will present the MDA CEO report first.

CEO Report – Murray Darling Association – Emma Bradbury

Key focus is on the National Conference and a revised model is being considered for the Conference to be delivered by virtual hybrid due to Covid-19.

Good investment in virtual module being mindful that the risk of virtual fatigue is plaguing us all but keen to tap into the opportunity to attract a broader audience.

Good ideas have been expressed in regards to speakers, Cr Jane MacAllister has contributed with this and a number of her recommendations made have made their way into the funding framework.

The Community Leadership Program is at a pivotal point with the commencement of the launch and MDA are very pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Peter Cullan Trust in the delivery of the Program. The design and development has now largely been finalised and the launch is again in the “current space” with some revised timelines and deliveries due to Covid. Feedback from participants is they are very keen to maintain face to face workshops and not a virtual model.

MDA are in the final stages of completion of the primary draft Strategic Plan 2020. The plan has gone to our Strategic Advisory Group for review and comment before being finalised as a draft for presentation and consultation of the Board. It’s a compilation of almost two years of consultation work across our regions and it will be a strong statement that will position us well into the future to look to engage in a range of criteria that we have been focusing on in recent years and it is very future focused.

Cr Jane MacAllister asked if Emma Bradbury could elaborate further on the MDA and CSIRO and what MDA is looking for from Regions in regards to input.

Emma Bradbury responded advising that MDA now have a legally binding Relationship Agreement with the CSIRO which is the foundation point from which we can pursue projects together and strengthen initiatives

and formalise funding initiatives.

The MBA strategic planning group workshop identified three priorities:

- The Local Centre for Excellence
- Combine concept and elevation
- Invest in a bricks and mortar asset

Question raised by Cr Jane MacAllister in regards to the Conference to be held in Wentworth in 2021.

Emma Bradbury responded.

They will be guided by the Board, but a hybrid conference would be preferred - not a wholly virtual conference and she will recommend to the Board the hybrid model.

Cr Jason Modica supports a face to face conference based on his previous conference attendances as it builds stronger relationships and promotes difficult conversations, but possibly not three days due to the expense.

Ken Ross commented that the Conference is an opportunity to showcase our district, but the content of the Conference is up to the Board. The Wentworth Shire Council would be happy to accept responsibility and resource it accordingly.

Cr Jane MacAllister commented that on the third day the Conference has a reduced crowd which is unfortunate because the AGM is on the third day. She suggested that the Board get together face to face beforehand and that day one be the normal format and have the AGM on day two when there is more numbers and day three be a study tour.

Final two points:

Confirm Bob Stuart from Central Darling Administrator is now duly appointed to Strategic Advisory Committee.

The AGM is due and the guidelines for the Conduct of the AGM will be sent to Cr Jane MacAllister to be distributed accordingly.

Cr Jane MacAllister raised that she had heard MDA are sitting at a "round table" meeting on Wednesday 10 June 2020.

Emma Bradbury confirmed the MDA are hosting the First Preliminary "round table" meeting with the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and that it was an invitation event.

Emma Bradbury advised that Cr David Thurley received an OAM.

### **Resolution**

That congratulations be passed on to Cr David Thurley on receiving the OAM.

**Moved: Cr Darriea Turley**

**Seconded: Cr Jane MacAllister**

Emma Bradbury and Greg Hill exited meeting at 1.32pm

## **5. MINUTES**

### **Resolution**

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2020 be amended to state that Cubbie Station can hold 459 gegalitres not 1.3 megalitres as stated in the Business Arising report and they then be accepted.

**Moved: Cr Jason Modica**

**Seconded: Cr Jane MacAllister**

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

- Cr MacAllister advised that she had spoken to Central Darling and Balranald Councils. They do not have a Climate Plan or Water Statement and neither does Wentworth Shire Council.
- MDA trying to formalise a clear policy on climate and water. The MDA has sought policies from the Region 4 Group and the MRCC advised they have a Water Allocation and Environmental Policy. Broken Hill have a Sustainable Environmental Policy which has been provided.

### Resolution

That Region 4 continue to support calls for a Royal Commission into management of the Murray Darling Basin.

**Moved: Cr Jason Modica**

**Seconded: Cr Darriea Turley**

### Resolution

That we recommend the MDA create a Climate Policy.

**Moved: Cr Darriea Turley**

**Seconded: Cr Jane MacAllister**

## 7. REPORTS

7.1 Chairs Report – Cr MacAllister

Verbal report

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Proposed AGM 8 September 2020**

**9. CLOSE 2.15pm**

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