



Agenda for the next MDA Region 5 Ordinary Meeting  
to be held in the  
Berri Barmera Council Katarapko meeting room  
5 Riverview Drive Berri on  
Tuesday 12 March 2024 commencing at 10:00AM





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## 1 Present

### 1.0 Opening of the meeting

*“The Murray Darling Association Region 5 acknowledges the traditional owners of this land and the waters on which we meet”*

#### Members

Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council (Chair)
Cr Margaret Howie	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr James John	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr John Forrester	Mid Murray Council
Cr Victoria Hammond	Mid Murray Council
Cr Craig Ferber	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Cr Gary Pfeiler	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Mark Lamb	Murray Darling Association (Chief Executive Officer)
Tim Zeller	Murray Darling Association
Ian & Bobbi Mann	Mid Murray Private Members

#### Guests

Monique White	Murray Darling Basin Authority
Carron McLeod	MRLGA
Jarrold Eaton	Murray Darling Basin Authority
Dan Croucher	Water Infrastructure and Investment Division
Sally Vasey	District Council of Loxton Waikerie

## 2 Apologies

Kate Bartlett	Murray-Darling Basin Authority Murray Bridge
Cr Collis Marrett	Berri Barmera Council



### 3 Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

#### 3.1 Confirmation of previous minutes be received

**Attachments:** 1. MDA Region 5 Minutes 4 December 2023 [3.1.1 - 3 pages]

#### **Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 meeting held Monday 4 December



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

Attachment 3.1.1

[admin@mda.asn.au](mailto:admin@mda.asn.au)

[www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)  
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ABN: 64 636 490 493

P.O. Box 1268  
Echuca, VIC 3564

[jbutler@bbc.sa.gov.au](mailto:jbutler@bbc.sa.gov.au)

Secretariat: Jodie Butler  
T: (08) 8582 1922

Monday 4 December 2023 at 10:00am

Venue: Renmark Paringa Council, 61 Eighteenth Street, RENMARK SA 5341 or  
via Video Conference (Microsoft Teams link included in calendar invitation)

### 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING AND WELCOME

Cr Andrew Kassebaum welcomed all attendees to the Murray Darling Association Region 5 meeting.

### 2. ATTENDANCE

#### 2.2 Present

Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Region 5 Chair and Councillor, Berri Barmera Council
Cr Peter Hunter	Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council
Mark Lamb	CEO, Murray Darling Association
Cr Craig Ferber	Councillor, District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Carron Mcleod	CEO, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
Matt Rix	Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Field Officer
Cr John Forrester	Councillor, Mid Murray Council

#### 2.3 Apologies

Cr Margaret Howie	Deputy Mayor, Renmark Paringa Council
Kate Bartlett (Jarrod Eaton)	Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray SA – Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Greg Burns	Inspector-General of Water Compliance, Field Officer
Cr Victoria Hammond	Councillor, Mid Murray Council
Cr Collis Marret	Councillor, Berri Barmera Council
Cr Gary Pfeiler	Councillor, District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Cr James John	Councillor, Renmark Paringa Council
Ian & Bobbi Mann	Individual Members
Cr Ella Winnall	Mayor, Berri Barmera Council
Martin Borgas	CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

### 4. MINUTES

That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 5 - Ordinary Meeting held 7 August 2023 be approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

Cr Kassebaum/Mayor Hunter - CARRIED

### 5. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

### 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA Region 6 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting – Information only

- Meeting minutes to be shared between MDA Region 5 Members

- <https://www.mda.asn.au/regions> (Agenda & Minutes can be found here from all MDA Regions)

6.2 Water Position and Impacts to the Region via Water Buybacks



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Verbal discussion to members provided by Carron McLeod:

- Attending meetings with RMMAC & NAC soon
- NAC keen to have input into their paper
- Observing other stakeholders can be a little challenging, would be great to include another department from the Government "Trade Investment Team".
- How can we have a balanced conservation e.g. Buybacks and how we can build the relationships
- Region has so much to offer; how do we get more awareness and funding out to the community
- Growers have been looking at changing crops to Olives and table grapes. There would be many man hours involved. Growers would need to downsize by 20%.

### 6.3 Water Reform Funding in the Murray-Darling Basin

Matt Rix providing verbal discussion on behalf of Greg Burns:

- In 2022-2023 the Inspector General closed 49 trade investigation matters
  - Deficiencies in the breadth of offences
  - Escape clauses in legislation
  - Lack of access to data
- Refer to Annual Report: <https://www.igwc.gov.au/publications/annual-reports>

## 7 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REPORTS

### 7.1 Verbal update provided by Mark Lamb:

- National conference was very pleasing to attend this year and was good to be back in SA
- We started by the river at the Regional Rowing Centre where we were welcomed to Murray Bridge by Mayor Wayne Thorley
- On the Tuesday we had the Study Tour where we had the opportunity to travel across the Barrages. We received positive feedback regarding the event
- Main conference and Gala Dinner went well
- Most importantly 27 motions were put to us
- Next AGM we may arrange to have at the beginning of the conference
- 79<sup>th</sup> National Conference Summary Report located [here](#)
- Chief Executive Officer's Report – November 2023 found [here](#)
- Question from Mayor Peter Hunter regarding a Waste disposal facility near Narromine in NSW and the back lash MDA are receiving.
  - Mark advised that MDA does not have a vested interest in the project beyond the facilitation of community engagement. Email will be coming out soon to members (and others) to clarify.

## 8 OTHER BUSINESS

- Question from Cr John Forrester: Wake Boats and the impact they are having on the riverbanks. Is there anything we can do to reserve the banks?
- Chair suggested motion through your chambers to MRLGA to investigate
- **Action:** Some traction last week - "Hazard for the whole region/Zone of Emergency Region. Carron to provide update to Chair via email

## 9 MEETING SCHEDULE



## Murray Darling Association Inc.

### Region 5 Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

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The next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 4 March 2024 at Berri Barmera Council.

For your information, proposed future meeting dates / location.

- Monday 10 June 2024 at District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- Monday 9 September 2024 at Mid Murray Council
- Monday 9 December 2024 at District Council of Loxton Waikerie

10 CLOSE

To be confirmed



## 4 Business Arising from the minutes

### 4.1 Other Business

- Question from Cr John Forrester: Wake Boats and the impact they are having on the riverbanks. Is there anything we can do to reserve the banks?  
Action: Chair suggested motion through your chambers to MRLGA to investigate
- Carron Mcleod advised she would provide update to Chair via email
- Response: Carron is happy to share any information when she receives. Refer to attachment 4.1.1



**From:** [Carron Mcleod](#)  
**To:** [Ben Scales](#); [Heather Barclay](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MRLGA- - Riverbank slumping

Hi Heather and Ben

The MDA 5 is reconvening and I thought I'd just follow up on my email, below:

Ben, is it possible to obtain a copy of the information MMC has provided to SES (referred to below) ? Thanks

Heather, is it possible to understand if the movie planned to be shown at the last meeting in November is available? Thanks

Sincerely

**Carron McLeod**  
 Chief Executive Officer

**Mobile:** 0417 154 367 • **Email:** [ceo@mrlga.sa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@mrlga.sa.gov.au)  
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**Murraylands and Riverland  
 Local Government Association**

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**From:** Carron Mcleod  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:08 AM  
**To:** Ben Scales <[bscales@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:bscales@mid-murray.sa.gov.au)>; Heather Barclay <[H.Barclay@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:H.Barclay@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** MRLGA- - Riverbank slumping

Hi Ben and Heather

Cause/Effects relating to riverbank slumping was raised at the MDA 5 Meeting today.

I indicated this item is on the ZEMC agenda, but I note from the comments below is says low response from Councils. Is this categorised as a hazard (up and down the river) at this time ?

Ben, is it possible to obtain a copy of the information MMC has provided to SES (referred to below) ? Thanks

Heather, is it possible to understand if the movie planned to be shown at the last meeting in November is available? Thanks

## 6. Action Items

### Checklist for Actions:

- **Ensure actions fit within the ZEMC responsibilities as per the [Annex D of the State Emergency Management Plan \(SEMP\)](#) – Also found in Appendix A of this agenda**
- **Ensure actions fit within the ZEMC Terms of Reference**

<b>Issues that need to be escalated can be referred to a Sub-Committee of the State Emergency Management Committee</b>				
<b>ZEMC Actions</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Riverbank Collapse risk mitigation/management review</b>	All Affected Stakeholders	Commenced	TBC	<p>Mid Murray has provided information to SES.</p> <p>Heather has continued discussions in particular with Riverfront road.</p> <p>Affected CEO's to meet with SES.</p> <p>Low response from councils, what level of response from stakeholders is needed to qualify as a zone hazard</p> <p>Video to be shown at November meeting.</p>

Sincerely

**Carron McLeod**  
Chief Executive Officer

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Local Government Association**

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## **5 Deputations**

10.30am: Dan Croucher A/Branch Head, Water Infrastructure and Investment Division to present Restoring the Rivers Framework.

## **6 Any Other Business**

### **6.1 MDA - Chief Executive Officer's Report**

As per attachment 6.1.1



## Chief Executive Officer's Report

February 2024

Mark Lamb  
m.lamb@mda.asn.au

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### 1. Introduction

In addition to ‘business as usual’ issues, we have been focusing on key deliverables, including:

- Membership
- Executing, reporting, and finalising ‘Circular Economy’ projects
- Preparing, organising, and delivering MDA conference and AGM
- Working on financials
- Following up on previous motions and preparing motions for the AGM
- Ongoing advocacy

### 2. Membership

We are continuing to drive membership whenever and wherever possible and have conducted several membership campaigns to non members. However, membership of a council usually results from formal face to face meetings and follow up.

The MDA strives to meet with non-members whenever the opportunity allows. Recently, we had meetings with LGA’s in various parts of the basin and the feedback has been very positive and resulted in several councils joining, with more to come. We also received similar feedback from Queensland Councils after the Council of Mayors meeting. We are planning to conduct similar visits in other regions, with an ongoing Membership engagement mission is planned for all of the Basin Regions.

### 3. Advocacy

We have continued to connect with related parties in the water space, both Federally and State based.

Of particular note, the Federal Water Minister, Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, spoke at our 2023 National Conference and there has been ongoing communication following.

We have had follow up calls and had very good discussions about many subjects, including MinCo and recurrent funding for the MDA as well as water buybacks. The Minister very much enjoyed being at the MDA conference and enjoyed meeting many of our members from across the Basin. Minister Plibersek has indicated that her door is open to us and looks forward to further engagement.

We received much media attention following the conference. This is continuing, and we are capitalising on this where appropriate. A number of speaking opportunities have ensued such as the Legalwise Water Symposium and the SW Qld Council of Mayors.

We are continuing to develop relationships with State Ministers and relevant bodies, and we are currently seeking face to face meetings with Ministers and relevant Department heads and entities.

Progressing other 20+ Motions raised at the 2023 AGM, the MDA has taken advocacy in stride, engaging with Government departments via correspondence, meetings, and Report submissions such as to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) Public consultation to delivering the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in full, as well as the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation following engagement with the Riverina Regional Community Forum.

This progression of Motions and advocacy has led to direct engagement between the DCCEEW, the Minister for the Environment and Water, the MDBA and the MDA, including key references to MDA advocacy in official Government Reports.

### 4. Partnerships, collaboration, and engagement

We are continuing to work on a range of partnerships such as CSIRO, SQNNSW and One Basin CRC.

Whilst the CSIRO relationship has already provided outcomes, other partnerships are a slower burn. However, feedback has been very positive in terms of the potential of these relationships.

## 5. CSIRO and the Circular Economy

CSIRO Land and Water has partnered with MDA to investigate and explore a series of strategic growth areas that align with the biggest land and water challenges faced by Australian governments/agencies, industries, and communities. These growth areas will build on capabilities and that of our partners and transform the boundaries of the types of products, research projects and services we might collaborate on.

The CSIRO have identified Repurposing Waste / Circular Economy as a strategic growth area and are interested in validating this with LGA's as a valued partner. The CSIRO would like to understand more about how LGA's work within the repurposing waste / circular economy area within their organisation. They are also keen to hear about any future aspirations they might have in regard to infrastructure solutions they need now and into the future.

***“The MDA had achieved in 3 months what would have taken CSIRO years.”***

To capture these insights, the MDA has completed a series of meetings that will build towards, and help inform the future of this growth area and ensure the CSIRO can design solutions that are of value for all. We have now successfully completed all requirements of the initial engagement with Local Government Areas and presented our findings to the management of CSIRO.

The MDA's work was very well received by the CSIRO, stating that “the MDA had achieved in 3 months what would have taken CSIRO years. We have developed , and continue to develop, a good working relationship with most of their departments – in particular, the Land and Water Division. Given the interest around managed aquifer recharge, there is potential to partner with CSIRO again regarding this area of work.

Building upon the success of our past work with the CSIRO, the MDA has been engaged with regarding a further project in the Circular Economy field, extending upon the previous work completed in 2022. This project is being developed as we speak, and the MDA is excited to see it to its fruition.

Furthering this, the MDA in partnership with the CSIRO, has met with the Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) in November 2023, to further understanding Circular Economy opportunities in local government. Another follow-up meeting with GSCC is planned for 2024.

There is the potential to conduct further work with CSIRO departments which we are continuing to explore!

In addition to the above projects, we are providing consultancy to an organisation that is working in the Circular Economy.

## 6. Key Meetings and Engagements

Date	Event/meeting	Location
8/11/2023	DPE: Non-Urban Water Metering review- Peak Stakeholder meeting	Held Virtually
9/11/2023	CSIRO: Making it circular – how to close the loop	Held Virtually
9/11/2023	November Peak Group Briefing	Held Virtually
17/11/2023	Presentation to Rural City of Murray Bridge Council	Murray Bridge, SA
21/11/2023	Interview with SCA	Held Virtually
22/11/2024	Interview with 2AY Radio Albury	Held Virtually
22/11/2023	Meeting with PSTR Group Pty Ltd, Albury City Council	Albury, NSW
22/11/2023	Meeting with National Irrigators Council	Held Virtually
28/11/2023 – 29/11/2023	Community Engagement Sessions	Narromine, NSW
29/11/2023	Meeting with Southern Kuya	Held Virtually
29/11/2023	Virtual Event: Data-centric AI with the Responsible AI Network and Standards Australia	Held Virtually
1/12/2023	Meeting with SRC, RSV	Melbourne, VIC
1/12/2023	SQNNSW Innovation Hub Members & Partners Forum	Held Virtually
5/12/2023	Meeting: Riverina Regional Community Forum	Held Virtually
12/12/2023	DCCEEW Webinar: Restoring our Rivers Update	Held Virtually
4/1/2024	Meeting with Southern Kuya	Held Virtually
3/1/2024	Meeting with InPipe Energy	Held Virtually
17/1/2024	VIC State Water Minister: Basin Plan Forum	Shepparton, VIC
18/1/2024	VIC State Water Minister: Basin Plan Forum	Echuca, VIC
24/1/2024	Meeting with Matthew Selinsky	Albury, NSW
1/2/2024	Meeting with PSTR Group PTY LTD	Adelaide, SA
15/2/2024	MDBA meeting: Basin Plan Evaluation Information Session	Held Virtually
19/2/2024	DCCEEW meeting: Draft framework to deliver the 450GL of environmental water	Held Virtually
28/2/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP</li> <li>Meeting with Sen. Perin Davey</li> </ul>	Canberra, ACT
1/3/2024	Presentation to the Legalwise Water Law Symposium	Sydney, NSW



## 7. 80<sup>th</sup> National Conference and AGM

The feedback from our 79<sup>th</sup> National Conference has been very positive.

We were able to secure the key speakers we wanted as well as relevant sponsors. The number of delegates was in excess of 150. Sponsorships were particularly pleasing, and we secured 2 platinum sponsors as well as a dinner sponsor. Overall, we were very pleased with the result. In addition, we made a positive contribution to our financial position.

Looking forward, I am pleased to officially launch the webpage and invite you to the ***Murray Darling Association's 80<sup>th</sup> National Conference and AGM*** to be held ***8<sup>th</sup>~11<sup>th</sup> July, 2024*** in ***Tamworth, NSW***. The proposed theme is: "The future of Water Security".

This exciting event will bring together leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin, and will be a wonderful opportunity to meet again, face to face.

Tamworth is a thriving regional city and is the heart of the New England region. It's a destination for family fun, outdoor adventure, foodie delights, the arts and heritage, plus so much more!

Renowned for its laid-back lifestyle, incredible landscapes and generous hospitality, Tamworth is where rich heritage meets outdoor adventure, arts and culture complement luxury, and sports intersect action and fun!

The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre on the city's southern outskirts hosts horse-related events. Nearby is the Big Golden Guitar centre with its giant guitar statue, music store and wax museum. The central Tamworth Regional Gallery houses local textiles and art.

The MDA's 80<sup>th</sup> National Conference & AGM is ***your opportunity*** to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and to engage with the innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time.

Join us in Tamworth and engage in discussion with an incredible line up of speakers and panellists including members from State and Federal Government, Government Departments, Agencies, Authorities, Educators, Basin Leaders, and many more! Come together to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future of connected councils, catchments, and communities.

The program for presenters and guest speakers is well underway and the Planning committee are working on all logistical matters to secure a whole Tamworth tourist experience.

## 8. Engagement Report on the benefits of membership:

The MDA has been embarking on a membership drive, in order to try to secure new members as well as retain our current membership.

A keen focus has been identified in the Northern Basin, where we want to ensure that the Northern Basin is engaged to its fullest potential. We are pleased to note that our engagement with Councils and entities across the Basin bearing fruit!

With over 167 councils in the MDB, the ongoing partnership between Councils and the Murray Darling Association elevates local and regional issues and priorities to the state and federal level providing national recognition of local priorities.

Membership to the MDA delivers social, economic, and environmental benefits to each community by creating partnerships, participating in events, and accessing networks and services that align with and support all Community plans, in the areas of Community, Environment, Economy and Council.

We know that councils and the local government sector are increasingly resource challenged and are looking for services, relationships and partnerships that assist in achieving your council's and your region's strategic priorities.

Water, land management, energy and community wellbeing are front and centre of almost every council's priorities. A strong relationship between council and the MDA provides opportunities to:

- partner with councils and regional groups in providing local case studies and experience to support regional and national positions and advocacy strategies.
- raise the profile of your council and the local government sector through MDA's partnerships with the Commonwealth.
- present strategically aligned priorities, objectives, and advocacy to state and federal governments.
- leverage regional efficiencies and Basin-scale capability and positions.

### **Benefits to your community.**

The MDA fosters a culture of community collaboration and leadership development to improve social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Working together with member councils and our regions, we achieve policy change and ensure local knowledge informs the national dialogue on water reform, land management, environmental sustainability, leadership development and education, and regional economic diversification.

Council's participation at MDA region and national meetings builds regional relationships and elevates the community's priorities to the state and federal level, informing decisions and outcomes that impact your local area.

### Benefits to your environment.

There is no future on a dry riverbed. At the core of our vision is a strong emphasis on science and education to inform policies for the sustainable management of Basin resources to ensure a healthy and prosperous future.

The MDA's vision, which drives our strategic and operational direction, is for *local government and communities to work together to achieve a healthy, vibrant and thriving Murray-Darling Basin*. As a result, the MDA has:

- Partnered with CSIRO with a focus on science and education to address some of the Basin's toughest challenges.
- Advocated for and represented local government in environmental issues, including floodplain harvesting etc.
- Partnered with Murray-Darling Basin Authority, better supporting local government through information sharing and representation.
- Supported regions to develop Climate Ready Communities statements

### Benefits to your economy.

For many, if not all, Basin communities, water security plays an important role in economic growth and sustainability. Through the MDA's regional alignments and partnerships, member councils leverage the value of knowledge sharing across the local government and regional development sectors to peruse water quality, water security and other priorities.

The MDA provides member councils with partnerships that support regional economic development and diversification initiatives.

### Benefits to your council.

Our mission is to provide high value services to our members, and their communities by delivering quality projects, events and products create enduring value for Basin communities and governments.

### Our achievements

The Murray Darling Association has been successful in shifting policies to better reflect the needs of the Basin communities, and we are continuing to grow our reach and impact as portrayed in our [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

The relationship between the MDA and our member Councils contributes strongly to the development of the local government sector as a whole and our collective role in ensuring a vibrant, sustainable future for the Murray-Darling Basin.

*Mark D. Lamb*

**Chief Executive Officer**



## **6.2 MRLGA CEO, Water Advocacy paper update**

Carron McLeod – MRLGA CEO to provide Water Advocacy Paper Update.

## **6.3 MDBA - Update to be provided by Assistant Director, Engagement**

Monique White to provide project update.

## **6.4 MDBA - Water Quality Projects Update**

Water Quality Projects Update to be provided by Jarrod Eaton Assistant Director, Basin Plan Salinity and Water Quality Management SDLAM and Hydrometrics Program, River Management Portfolio.

## **6.5 Region 5 AGM - 10 Jun 2024**

Discuss the changeover of the MDA Region 5 meeting administration to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

- Note Sally Vasey Executive Assistant to the CEO and Mayor (DCLW) will be attending the meeting.

## **7 Next meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every 3<sup>rd</sup> month

Next meeting: MDA Region 5 AGM - 10 Jun 2024, location TBC.

## **8 Closure**

The Chair closed the meeting at.