



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

## Region 5

Chairperson:  
Cr Peter Raison

Ph: 0409 594 720

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

Hosting Council:  
Mid Murray Council

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## Region 5 – Ordinary Meeting

# AGENDA

**Monday 26 October 2020**

Commencing at 10-00 am

Mid Murray Council, Cnr Fourth & Eighth Streets, Morgan &

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

### 1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

1.2 Apologies:

1.3 Guests:

Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer, MDA

Deana Mildren – Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Tim Smythe – Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

### 2. WELCOME

Cr Peter Raison – Chairperson Region 5

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Material / Actual / Perceived

### 4. MINUTES

Moved

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on the 1 June 2020, are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Seconded

### 5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Deana Mildren – Senior Engagement Officer, Communications, Engagement & Strategic Policy Program, Basin Strategy & Knowledge portfolio – Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Provide an update on the Murray Darling Basin Authorities activities.

5.2 Tim Smythe – Chief Executive Officer, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Speak to the draft Terms of Reference for the water position paper working group.

## 6. MDA CEO / NATIONAL AGM

- 6.1 [CEO's Report](#)
- 6.2 [Ordinary Board Meeting & 76<sup>th</sup> AGM Minutes](#)
- 6.3 [76<sup>th</sup> National Conference – links to recorded sessions](#)

## 7. BUSINESS ARISING

### 7.1 Opportunities to Collaborate

Resolved at the last meeting that the matter of the Position Statement Working Group be discussed at the next meeting.

#### Minutes 1 June 2020

General discussion ensued on opportunities to collaborate in the following areas:

- Economic Diversification
- Strategic Initiatives
- Basin Community Leadership Program.

Further discussion continued on setting up a Position Statement Working Group consisting of the following:

- Emma Bradbury, CEO Murray Darling Association
- Ben Fee, CE Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland
- Tim Smythe, CEO Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Region 5 Chairperson; and
- Region 6 Chairperson.

### 7.2 Climate Ready Communities

- Possible workshop to be held to discuss Region 5's Climate Variability Position Statement and Action Plan.
- Individually provide a position statement on climate variability and/or pulling out each Council's position statement from their Strategic Plans and submitting this to Region 5 for discussion.
- Email from Cathy Keegan, Murray Darling Association, regarding Climate Ready Statements. Copies of Regions 6, 8, 9 and 11 Climate Ready Statements and Climate Variability (Change) Region Template are [attached](#) for your information. Requested Statements from the other Regions at their earliest possible convenience.

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 [Audit Status Update: Procurement of Strategic Water Entitlements](#)
- 8.2 [Sefton Report](#)
- 8.3 [RAMJO Position Statement](#)

## 9. PLANNING & COORDINATION

### Region 5 Meeting Dates / Time

- 14 December 2020 – 10 am
- 08 March 2021 – 10 am
- 14 June 2021 – 10 am
- 13 September 2021 – 10 am

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. NEXT MEETING**

Date: 14 December 2020

Time: 10 am

Location: Venue to be confirmed & Via Zoom Video Conferencing

**12. CLOSE**

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**From:** Cathy Keegan <c.keegan@mda.asn.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 October 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Emma Bradbury; Cr Andrew Tilley; Cr Brian Lockyer; David Thurley; Cr Jane MacAllister - R4; Cr John Campbell - R11; Cr Melissa Rebbeck; Cr Paul Maytom - R9 ; Cr Peter Raison; Cr Phyllis Miller; dennis.patterson@shepparton.vic.gov.au; Mayor Samantha O'Toole - R12  
**Cc:** Region 1 Secretariat Bron Cole; Region 4 Secretariat, Gayle Marsden; Executive Services; Jamie Barrett; Janelle.clarke@forbes.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** Region Climate Ready Statement  
**Attachments:** Region 6.pdf; Region 8 Climate Ready Statement.pdf; Region 9.pdf; Region 11.pdf; Climate Change Region Template with back v2.pdf

Dear Board Members,

Following on from today's board meeting, and as requested by Cr Rebbeck, please find attached:

Region 6, Region 8, Region 9 and Region 11's Climate Ready Statement, please also find attached the Climate Change Region Template for input.

Therefore if the following Regions could provide their statement at their earliest possible convenience it would be greatly appreciated:

Region 1,  
Region 2,  
Region 4,  
Region 5,  
Region 7,  
Region 10,  
Region 12.

Thanking you all in advance.

Kind regards  
Cathy



**Cathy Keegan**

*Membership Services Officer*

Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Shape the future.**

Be a part of creating the future we want for our Basin communities.

**Join the MDA Basin Community Leadership Program**

Applications now open.

Email [bclp@mda.asn.au](mailto:bclp@mda.asn.au) for more information.

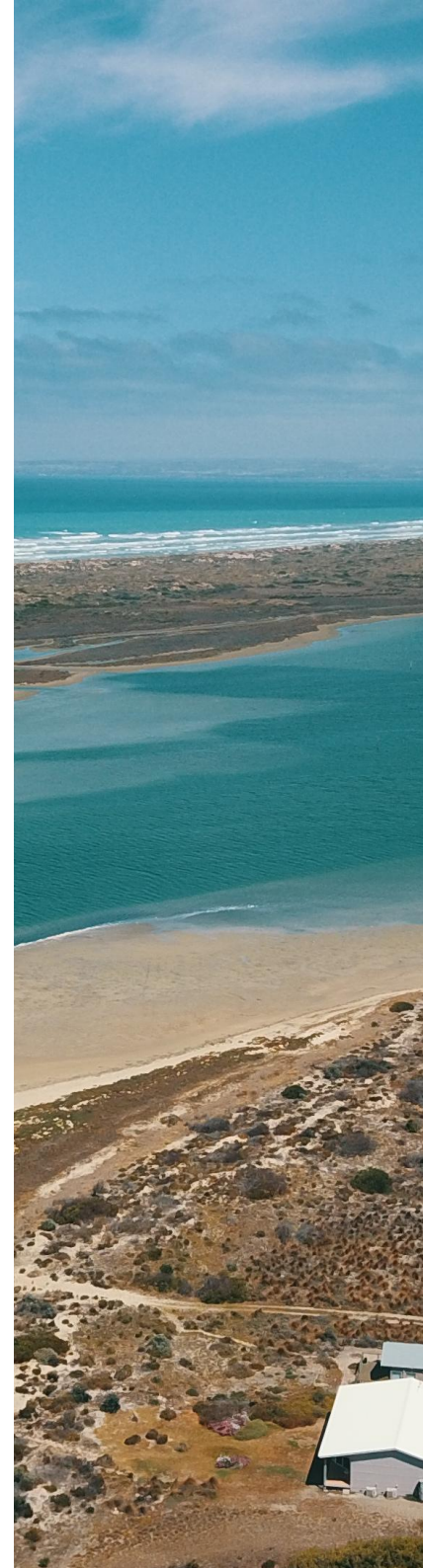


# **Region 6 Climate Ready Statement**

Covering an area in excess of 16,360 km<sup>2</sup> and with a population of 79,000, the MDA Region 6 includes the lower Murray Valley from the grassy slopes of the Mt. Lofty Ranges, down to the Southern Ocean coastline, the lower River Murray, its lakes and Coorong, and eastward across the Mallee to the Victorian border. Current membership of MDA Region 6 includes Alexandrina Council, Coorong District Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, City of Victor Harbor, Southern Mallee District Council, and Tatiara District Council. There are also a number of individual members with long-standing interest and experience in local water resource management issues. The land surrounding the lower River Murray, its lakes and Coorong were predominantly the traditional country of what is today the Ngarrindjeri Nation, who had strong cultural and spiritual ties from the lower Darling River to the coast. The Coorong remains an intrinsic part of their culture, spirituality and identity, with freshwater flows seen as their life blood and the environment their home.

Agriculture is the region's largest industry and includes grazing, wool, dairy, broad-area cereal crops, vegetables, fishing, and viticulture from some of South Australia's oldest vineyards. Riparian and agricultural land-use is reliant upon the productive waters flowing to the lower Murray and lower lakes. Our lower region and lands of the arid Mallee depend upon groundwater and alternative water resources. The fishing industry and the environmentally important Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar wetlands are also dependent upon quality environmental water flows. These wetlands are one of the top international migratory waterbird wetlands in the world; providing important high value habitat to an amazing number of threatened wildlife and rare plants.

Tourism is another key driver of the region's economy and includes food, wine, aquatic, and eco experiences that link Adelaide and Melbourne via the internationally renowned Coorong, the Southern Ocean Way, and the Mighty Murray Way tourism routes.



# **Region 6 Commitment to Action**

## **Key Issues and Priorities for the Region**

Our region is experiencing economic and social hardship as a result of increased water prices, declining inflows and reduced groundwater supply, rising temperatures and sea levels, and increased bushfire risk. In a changing climate, with river flows in the southern Murray Darling Basin predicted to decline significantly in coming years (notwithstanding the important efforts being made toward environmental water recovery via implementation of the Basin Plan), the need for ongoing and dedicated advocacy for our region will continue to be paramount.

For communities across the Murray Darling Basin, including MDA Region 6, effective adaptation to climatic and water availability, including changes to water allocations under the Basin Plan, must be properly understood.

Priority issues for Region 6 include:

- Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and develop a regional carbon neutral plan;
- Protect and restore the environmental, social, economic, cultural and natural heritage values of the Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong and Mallee District in the face of declining inflows and rising sea levels;
- Help our water-dependent industries, including agriculture, fisheries and tourism, to adapt and mitigate climate change;
- Provide environmentally sensitive access to the riverfront, by way of trails and interpretative information, and enhance eco-tourism opportunities from the lower Murray through to the Coorong;
- Collectively work on bank stabilisation methods to support areas vulnerable or already succumbing to bank collapse; and
- Maintain an open Murray Mouth and water flow from the river to the sea



# Region 6 Commitment to Action

Each member council has a range of policies that address climate change mitigation and adaptation, while to date three of our six member councils have declared a climate emergency. As a whole, MDA Region 6 commits to:

1. Community-centric climate change adaptation and mitigation planning for the Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong and Mallee District region that considers and addresses how best to protect the environmental, social, economic, cultural, and natural heritage values of our region in the face of declining inflows and reduced groundwater supply, rising temperatures and sea levels, and increased bushfire risk;
2. Embrace economic opportunities to adapt and mitigate to climate change, such as carbon sequestration, tree planting and renewable energy (e.g. waste to energy solutions);
3. Promote use of appropriate technologies and practices that address soil, land and water degradation by promoting improved soil, land and water management practices and techniques; and
4. Promote climate adaptation measures that enhance water security in a drying climate.

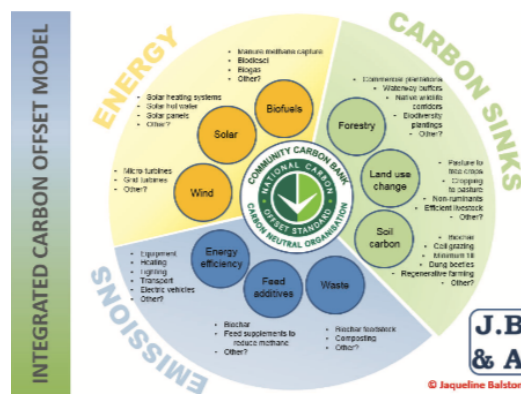
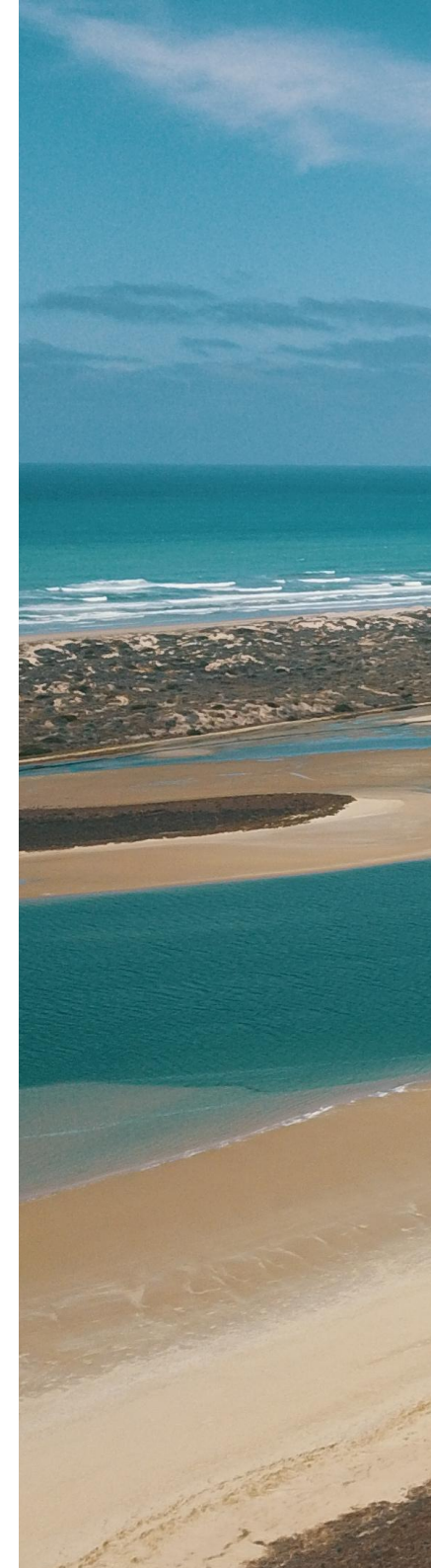


Figure 1 Economic opportunities for MDB farmers and their communities to adapt and mitigate to climate change



# **Region 8 Climate Ready Statement**

The Barunga West Council is located on the 'Top of the Yorke', adjacent to the Mid North of South Australia, with its southern-most boundary approximately 110 kilometres north of Adelaide. The townships in the Council area are Alford, Bute, Fisherman Bay, Kulpara, Melton, Munderoo, Port Broughton and Tickera.

The Council covers an area of 1,590 square kilometres, and has a total of 931 kilometres of roads. It has boundaries with Copper Coast Council, Yorke Peninsula Council, Port Pirie Regional Council and Wakefield Regional Council.

The main industries in the Council area are agriculture, aged-care services, and recreational and commercial fishing. Engineering, mining and tourism are also highly relevant and influence Council decision-making.

The Council area has several retirement facilities and these are expanding due to the amenity of life in the area and the central location of the Port Broughton Hospital and related medical services.

According to the 2016 Census data, the Council population is 2,544, an increase of 3.6% from the previous 2011 census data. The median age of the population is 55 (an increase from 51) compared to the State average of 40 (up from 39) and national average of 38 (up from 37). People aged 65 years and over make up 32.27% (up from 25.9%) of the population.

The increase in the average age of the population is expected to continue and Council is mindful of the infrastructure necessary to accommodate a growing population of elderly residents in addition to the robust needs of the agricultural and tourism sector.

## **Key Issues and Priorities for the Region**

**1. Extreme heat**

**2. Bushfire**

**3. Extreme storm and flood**

*Placeholder Photo*

*Placeholder Photo*

*Placeholder Photo*



# **Region 8 Commitment to Action**

The region has a resilience framework which is a living framework that is continually developed by council to plan and implement against impacts of natural disasters and coastal protection.

The following is a summary of the key actions Council is pursuing to help provide resilience in our region:

**Extreme heat** – we are embracing water sensitive design

**Bushfire** – council winter clean up, educational campaign and fire prevention inspections

**Extreme storm and flood** – ensure sea wall and stormwater infrastructure is delivered at Fisherman Bay and finalise arrangements for vegetated dunes, rock revetments and beach nourishment activities along the Port Broughton foreshore.

**Water reuse** – we are reusing wastewater in the Port Broughton township. A feasibility study is being prepared for reuse of Bute wastewater. The upgrade of Port Broughton's CWMS' facility will incorporate the reuse of Fisherman Bay waste water on foreshore, parks and school grounds.

*Placeholder Photo*

*Placeholder Photo*

*Placeholder Photo*

# **Region 9 Climate Ready Statement**

Region 9 is home to the Murrumbidgee River and many natural wonders and outdoor experiences. The fabric of our communities is underpinned by our agricultural history, entrepreneurial spirit and innovation. The region is distinguished by the combination of flat plains, warm to hot climate and an ample supply of water for irrigation which has allowed the region to develop into one of the most productive and agriculturally diverse areas of Australia.

The region includes the larger centres such as Wagga Wagga, Queanbeyan- Palerang and Griffith and the surrounding council areas of Carrathool, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hay, Hilltops, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Temora Shire, Weddin and Yass Valley.

The region is strategically reliant on agriculture, including irrigation. The production and value adding of food and fibre crops underpins the economy and associated industries while healthy river systems and natural environments maintain and balance the diversity of the region.

## **Key Issues and Priorities for the Region**

**1. Water security and availability:** to balance the needs of the community, environment, industry and agriculture. Responsible and sensitive use of water is key with agriculture and industry as well urban and landscape planning. Policy, planning and infrastructure must adapt to ensure productivity, employment potential and diversification.

**2. Drought and variable climate:** The climate is highly variable and has been steadily warmer on average. We need to be prepared and increase our resilience to natural hazards to manage the impacts and risks of extreme weather, drought, water availability and floods.

**3. Energy affordability:** A more variable climate will see growth in energy consumption with greater demand for renewable energy. Councils will need to promote minimum renewable energy levels, gardens and streetscaping to achieve cooler microclimates and responsible and sensitive use of water.

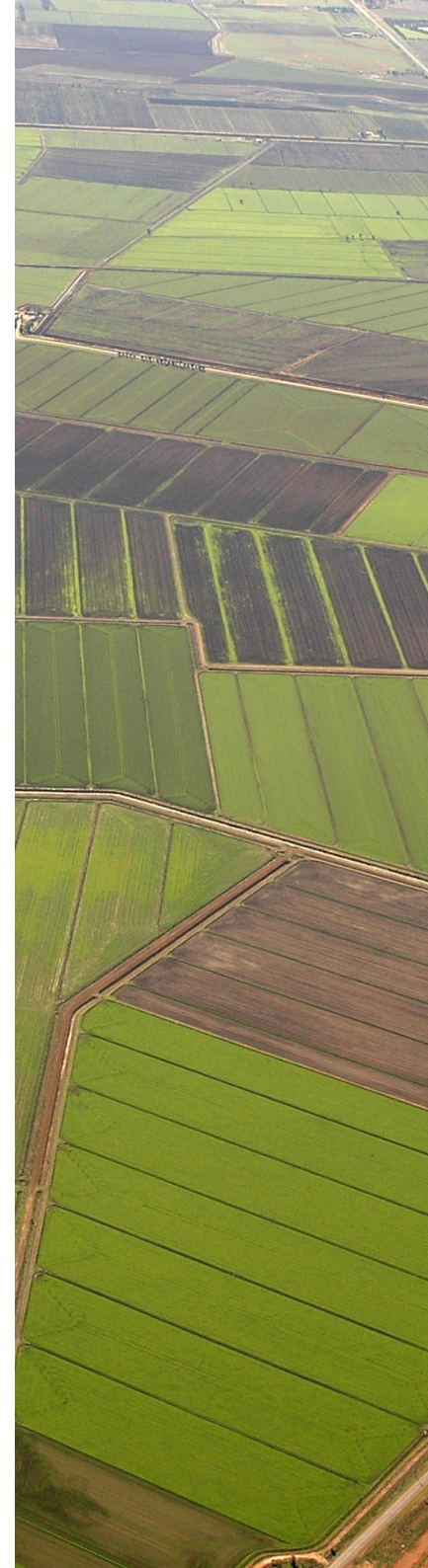
**4. Carbon emissions:** As more freight is moved and more people travel, road and rail hubs and efficient transport linkages are critical for promoting energy efficiency and sustainability.



# **Region 9 Commitment to Action**

Each member council has a range of actions to address and adapt to climate change. As a whole Region 9 commits to:-

1. Advocate for intelligent water policy, including with regard to water trading, sustainable levels of productive water for agriculture, support for communities negatively impacted by water reforms and a greater appreciation for quadruple bottom line outcomes that see socio-economic outcomes improved.
2. Advocate for, and contribute to, integrated and co-ordinated regional agricultural and business plans that promote resilience in managing the impacts and risks of climate change. Embrace new technologies and plans and practices to efficiently manage natural resources, incorporate renewable energy targets, reduce urban heat and promote responsible and sensitive use of urban water.
3. Advocate for and facilitate the increased use of rail and other means of efficient transport for freight (including the WR Connect and Bowmen Business Park projects) in order to help reduce carbon emissions.
4. Promoting alternate energy and renewable energy projects while balancing the interests of agriculture, industry and the community.
5. Advocate for research, development and innovation hubs to drive smarter agriculture and industry.



# Region 11 Climate Ready Statement

Region 11 would be one of the most diverse in the Basin. It's topography ranges from the rolling hills on the eastern side to the flat plains on the west. The makeup of the various LGA's in the region also varies with the larger cities of Armidale and Tamworth down to the smaller towns of Bingara, Walgett, Brewarrina, Walcha etc.

The topography lends itself to extremes in climate also with the freezing winters in the east to the rather hot summers in the west. Obviously the climate then affects the agricultural opportunities in each of the various LGA's. We have hydroponic tomatoes in Armidale, Citrus in Gunnedah, Pecan nuts in Moree and so on.

As well as the agricultural economy there is also mining and tourism which all lend themselves to the prosperity or not of the region. The region has limited catchments for the rivers which flow through it with what could also be construed as limited reservoirs/dams for the retention of the flows for irrigation, critical human needs and environmental use.

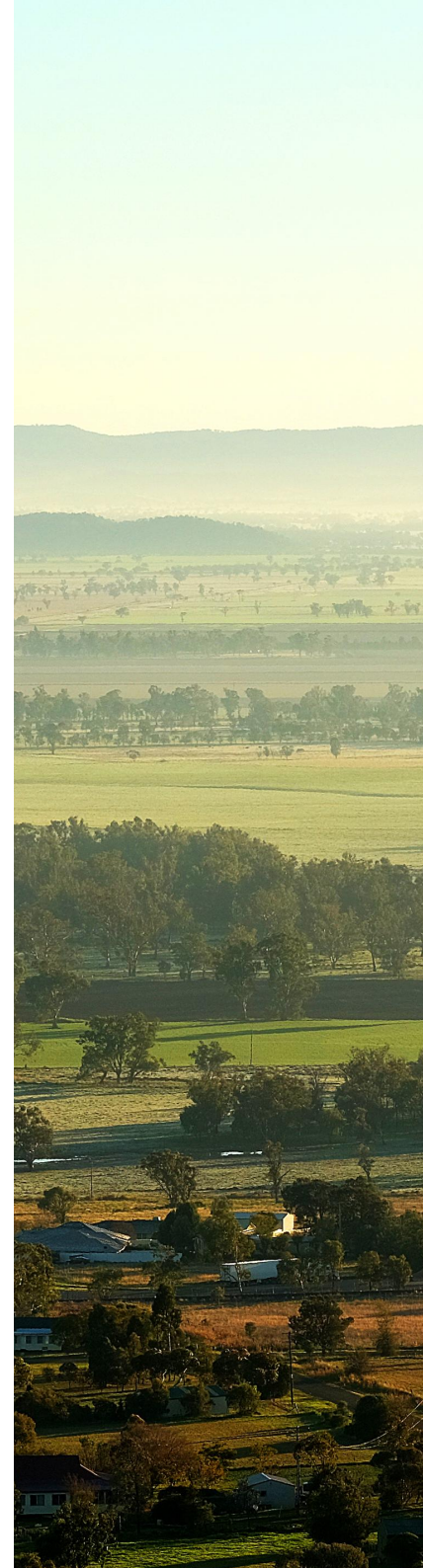
## Key Issues and Priorities for the Region

**1. Future availability of water supplies** - obviously the main focus here is that for irrigation purposes, as most economies in the region rely heavily upon the agricultural industries and the associated supporting businesses. Also relying heavily on the supply of water are the townships downstream. To a lesser extent tourism and recreational activities also are reliant on the flows. Inconsistencies in the water restrictions definitions etc are also of concern. As we cover a large part of the Great Artesian Basin and rely heavily on surface water we are also reliant on recharges to the aquifers the groundwater users utilise.

**2. Lack of action** or what appear to be "misdecisions" on behalf of legislators/regulators - water which could be used to grow fodder used as "environmental flows". Here our worries are the fact that we have had serious droughts/bushfires/floods before and we have not learned from our experiences and put the necessary improved measures in place. "Drought is broken" politicians forget very quickly.

**3. "Anti" sentiment towards CSG.** This region has tremendous reserves of CSG available (no fracking required). Some of which is being utilised by Santos to boost the electricity supply at Narrabri. The water which comes from the ground with the gas is, (after being passed through a reverse osmosis process) used to irrigate pasture which is, in turn used to make fodder for animal consumption.

**4. Risk management issues** such as loss of human life, Council assets, financial loss, reputational risk, legal issues etc.



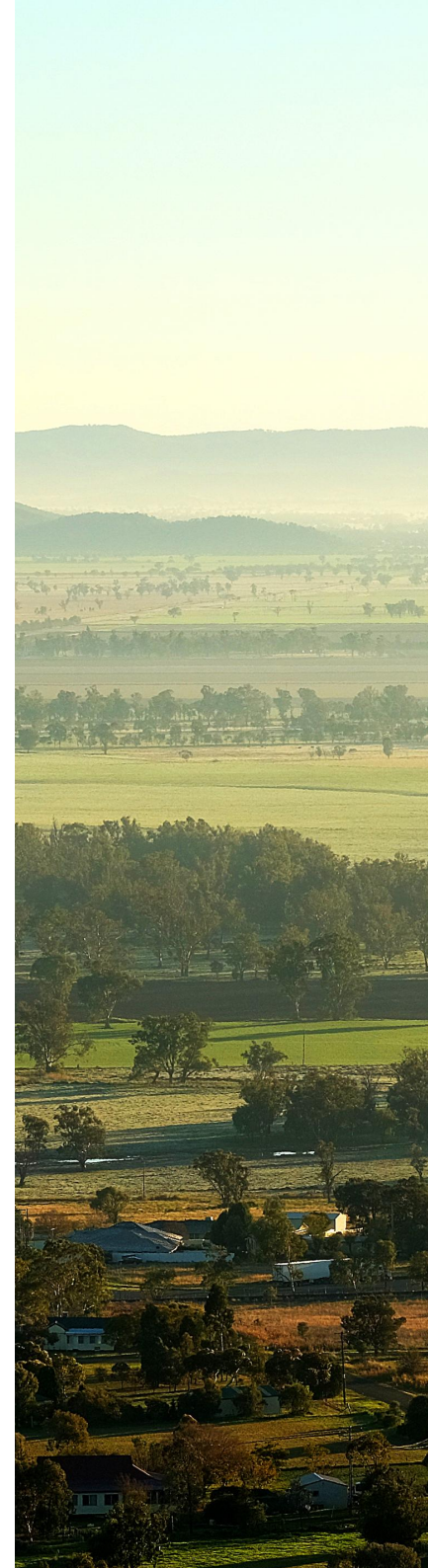
# **Region 11 Commitment to Action**

**1. Renewable Energy Sources** - already we have seen a start in this regard with Solar and Wind Farms having been approved and built in various LGA's.

2. As in 3 above **CSG could be used to generate base load power.** It is an extremely clean method of doing so.

3. **Carbon sequestration** can be done in one of two ways:- i) increasing soil carbon. There are various ways of doing this, or ii) growth of plantation type timbers. Once established these areas can also be utilised for grazing purposes.

4. Regular **review and testing of the region's Councils Disaster Management Plans.**



# MDA Climate Change Region Template



The Murray Darling Association (MDA) recognises that climate change is one of the most significant issues that will impact the social, cultural, economic and environmental health and wellbeing of the communities of the Murray-Darling Basin.

As a result, the MDA is currently developing its **Climate Change Position Statement and Action Plan**.

Your region's perspective is of critical importance and will directly inform the MDA's Basin-wide position statement (see p. 9 of the MDA's draft Climate Change position statement).

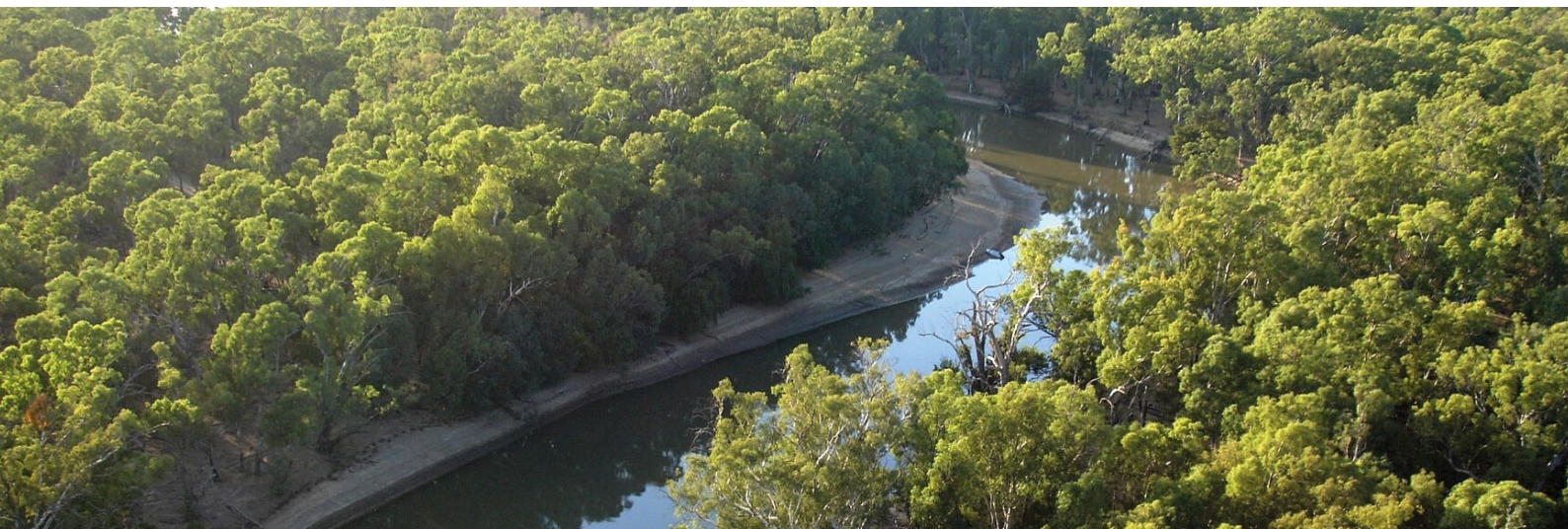
Please consult your region and provide a position statement for your region addressing the following:

- **Describe your region.**
- **What are your region's key priorities and issues?**
- **What are your region's commitment to 4 main actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.**

*(250 - 300 words)*

The position statement should be completed, and sent to [admin@mda.asn.au](mailto:admin@mda.asn.au)

Please include any high-quality photos of your region.





**Please complete the following at your next region meeting.**

**Describe your region.**

(250 words)

**What are your region's key priorities and issues?**

(250 words)

**What are your region's commitment to 4 main actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.**

(250 words)