

# Murray Darling Association Inc.

## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

### AGENDA

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

[www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)

T (03) 5480 3805

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**

**2. ATTENDANCE**

**3. APOLOGIES**

**4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

**5. MINUTES**

5.1. Minutes from Ordinary Meeting 7 August 2023 (Attachment 1)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 7 August 2023 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**6. DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

7.1. MDA Region 6 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting – Information only (Attachment 2)

7.2. Water Position and Impacts to the Region via Water Buybacks  
Verbal update by Carron Mcleod, CEO MRLGA

7.3. Water Reform Funding in the Murray-Darling Basin

The Murray–Darling Basin reforms aim to restore rivers and wetlands to a healthier and sustainable level. All while supporting strong regional communities and sustainable food production.

- Matt Rix

<https://www.dccew.gov.au/water/policy/programs/water-reform/mdb-funding>

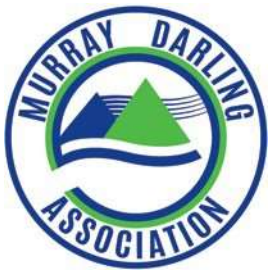
7.4. MDBA Update Dec 2023

Written Report supplied by Kate Bartlett (Attachment 3)

**8. MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

For your information

8.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report November 2023 [online](#)



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8.2 MDA Summary [Report](#) 79<sup>th</sup> National Conference 2023 Annual General Meeting

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS

TBC

#### 10. MEETING SCHEDULE

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

#### 11. CLOSE



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Echuca, Vic 3564

## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

## Monday 7 August 2023

Commencing 10.00am at the Waikerie Civic Centre (Chambers) and via zoom Video Conferencing

1. **COMMENCEMENT** Cr Andrew Kassebaum opened the meeting at 10.00am

2. **ATTENDANCE**

Present:

Mark Lamb	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association (via zoom)
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Margaret Howie	Renmark Paringa Council (via zoom)
Mayor Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council (via zoom)
Anne Lucas	Assistant Director, Engagement Communications, First Nations (via zoom)
Cr John Forrester	Mid Murray Council
Cr Victoria Hammond	Mid Murray Council
Richard Mintern	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Deputation)

**Apologies:**

Mayor Ella Winnall	Berri Barmera Council
Cr Craig Ferber	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
Greg Burns	Inspector General Water Compliance
Tim Phillips	Communications and Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Association
Cr Collis Marrett	Berri Barmera Council
Mayor Phyllis Miller	
Cr James John	

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

4. **MINUTES**

**Moved Cr A Kassebaum**

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on 7 August 2023 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Seconded Cr J Forrester**

**CARRIED**

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

5.1 **DEPUTATIONS: Reflections of a Wet Year**

Richard Mintern, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



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## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

**Monday 7 August 2023**

Discussed and presented the following:

- Presentation: Reflections of a Wet Year as per attachment
- Why do we need water for the environment.
- Visuals of Banrock Station 2014 compared to 2019 with significant changes.
- Plush's Bend, (near Renmark) before and after receiving water for the environment in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- Flow to South Australia.
- Sentinel Imagery link to be supplied.
- SA Murray and Floodplains response.
- Murray Mouth.
- End of system flows in context.
- 14 years of South Lagoon salinity.
- Coorong response.

Richard can be contacted via [Richard.Mintern@dceew.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Mintern@dceew.gov.au) if you have any further questions.

DRAFT

## 5. MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REPORTS

For your information

### 5.1. CEO's report [online](#)

- Highlighting key issues with the first with memberships being a challenge. Feedback has been positive with a number of Councils not even realising they had dropped the membership and keen to re-join.
- Secondly Advocacy MDA engaged with its members, and has submitted its feedback report outlining 21 recommendations. We have created a new website also where you can see all motions and correspondence.
- MDA hosts the 79th National Conference in Murray Bridge on 25 - 28 SEPT 2023. Easily book through the website or you can contact Mark.
- **Action:** Mark to forward Chair MDA AGM Region 6 draft Motions which will be circulated to Region 5 delegates.

### 5.2. MDA Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1. Apologies - Inspector General of Water Compliance, Greg Burns report.

### 6.2. MDBA Update presented by Anne Lucas:

- Presentation enclosed: Murray-Darling Basin Authority.
- Road map to the 2026 Basin Plan review.
- Presentation to help understand how the review works.
- Stay informed and be part of the process. Encouraged to use the QR code. Anne would like to hear from the delegates on how or what you would like to see from MDBA, email questions through to Anne.

### 6.3. MDA AGM, 25-28 Sept 2023, Murray Bridge.

- Cr Howie would like to know the process for Region 6 draft Motions. Cr Kassebaum advised that he will organise to send out MDA AGM Region 6 draft Motions to all delegates, then comments to be forwarded to Jodie Butler ([jbutler@bbc.sa.gov.au](mailto:jbutler@bbc.sa.gov.au)) for collation before 18 August 2023.

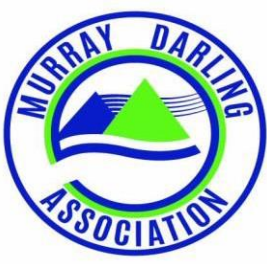
## 7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 4 December at Renmark Paringa Council Chambers.

## 8. CLOSE

11:23am the Chair declared the meeting closed.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Berri Barmera Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 5.*



## Minutes

Date: 10 November 2023  
Time: 9.30am – 12noon  
Location: Rural City of Murray Bridge, Local Government Centre, Mobilong Suite, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge

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### 1. WELCOME

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and work. We respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection as the custodians of this land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today.

We recognise the living culture and combined energies of the Ngarrindjeri People, our global Pioneers and Community Members today for their unique contribution to the life of our Region.

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### 2. ATTENDANCE

- 2.1 Membership (Attachment 1)
- 2.2 RSVP
- 2.3 Guests
- 2.4 Apologies

<b>Council Representatives</b>		
Cr Airlie Keen (Chair)	Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓
Mayor Wayne Thorley	Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓ - 11.24am
CEO Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge	Apology
Stephen Packer (Proxy)	Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓
CEO Bridget Mather (Proxy)	Coorong District Council	✓
Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council	Apology
Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council	✓
CEO Nigel Morris	Alexandrina Council	Apology
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council	✓
Cr Milli Livingston	Alexandrina Council	Apology
Cr Stewart Burns	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
Cr Carlos Quaremba	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
Kathy Hayter (proxy)	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
CEO Anne Champness	Tatiara District Council	Apology
Mayor Liz Goossens	Tatiara District Council	✓
Mayor Ron Valentine	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology
Cr Luke Kennedy	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology

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A/CEO Matthew Sherman (proxy)	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology
<b>Individual Member</b>		
Adrian Pederick, MP JP		Apology
Colin Grundy		Apology
Warren Jacobs		Apology
Melissa Rebbeck		Apology
<b>Life Members</b>		
Graham Camac		Apology
Phillip Moore		Apology
Barry Featherstone		Apology
Frank Tuckwell		Apology
<b>Guests</b>		
Greg Burns	OIGWC	Apology
Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District Council	Apology
Kate Bartlett	Murray Darling Basin Authority	✓
Richard Mintern	CEWO	Apology
<b>Executive Officer</b>		
Ashleigh Atze	Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓

2.5 Declarations  
Nil Conflict of Interests

### 3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from Ordinary Meeting 11 August 2023 (Attachment 2)

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 11 August 2023 be recorded as read and a true record of the meeting.

**Moved:** Cr Qualmann **Seconded:** Stephen Packer – **Carried**

### 4. REPORTS

#### 4.1. Chair's Report - Cr Airlie Keen

- Recap of the success of the 2023 MDA National Conference, thanks to all who attended and supported the delivery of the event.
- Was pleased to see that all Motions from Region 6 were successful at the MDA AGM. We now need to ensure these motions are kept 'live' and we receive continual updates on these in the form of an Action Plan.
- Attended the recent MDA Board Meeting, Cr Craig Davies from Region 10 is the new Chair and Cr Glenn Andrezza from Region 9 is the Vice Chair. Region 6 acknowledges the efforts of the past Chair Cr David Thurley.
- Cr Airlie Keen, Mayor Thorley and Warren Jacobs, Cr Michael Scott and Tracey Strugnell attended the Murray Darling Basin Community Information Session on 1 November 2023 at Langhorne Creek where it was revealed that there will be an establishment of a research hub in Gawler – will ask Dr Alec Rolston, Director of the Goyder Institute to speak at a future meeting.

#### Action

- That a letter from Region 6 Chair be sent to Rebekah Sharkie MP thanking her for hosting the Murray Darling Basin Community Information Session and hope that the Research Hub is the start of a longer term project.
- That an invitation be extended to Dr Alec Rolston, Director of the Goyder Institute to speak at a future meeting.

**Moved:** Cr Michael Scott **Seconded:** Cr Qualmann – **Carried**

4.2. MDA CEO Report – Mark Lamb (Attachment 3)

- Tim Phillips spoke to the MDA CEO report on behalf of Mark Lamb and highlighted the following items:
  - The recent rejoining of a number of Councils along Region 11 and Region 3 and new non Council Members to Region 7 (Waterfind Pty Ltd and Aither Pty Ltd).
  - Reporting and finalising Circular Economy Projects
  - Following the 2023 MDA AGM, the MDA are actively following up on the motions received
  - The success of the 2023 MDA AGM National conference and thanks to Murray Bridge and Region 6 for all their support with executing a great event.

4.3. Member's Updates (written or verbal)

- Cr Qualmann  
Representatives from Coorong District Council attended the 2023 MDA National Conference and were very pleased with the speakers and program for this event. A thank you to RCMB and Event Organisers. Was also pleased to see that at the AGM all Region 6 motions were passed.
- Mayor Liz Goossens  
Appreciate the support of Region 6, and highlighted the current water issues in Bordertown.
- The Meeting asked to be included in the correspondence to Minister Close in relation to the continual advocacy for the matters relating to the water supply issues.

4.4. Murray Darling Basin Authority – Kate Bartlett (Presentation included in Minutes)

- Highlights included:
  - Riverland Field Day
  - MDA Conference
  - Community Meetings
  - The Key Message of 450 GL of water is for the Environment, not only for SA
  - MDBA Annual Report has been released
  - SA Regional Engagement Forum, 4 December 2023
  - Next MBDA Authority Meeting, 12 December 2023 in Murray Bridge
  - Basin Plan
  - Region 6 is committed to working with the MBDA to disseminate information to the Community on matters of continual relevance
  - Restoring our Rivers Bill 2023

4.5. Office of Inspector General Water Compliance – Greg Burns

Nil

4.6. Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Richard Mintern

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That all Reports be received.

**Motion:** Cr Qualmann    **Seconded:** Cr Michael Scott – **Carried**

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5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Correspondence Out

Invitation to Murray Darling Basin Information Session – 1 November 2023 (Attachment 4)



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5.2 Correspondence In  
Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That all correspondence be recorded as received and read

**Moved:** Mayor Liz Goossens **Seconded:** Stephen Packer – **Carried**

The Chair called for a short break at 10.42am.

The meeting resumed at 11:02am

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6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

6.1 Actions from previous Ordinary meetings (Attachment 5)

The meeting noted the Action List.

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7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 National Conference Reflections

- Wonderful event, speakers and program
- Great Venue
- There were some catering issues which had to be resolved
- Better to know who joined the AMG virtually – Tim Phillips to consider
- Knowing if a person is joining as a Proxy – how many votes do they have if they are Proxy for a number of apologies – Tim Phillips to provide advice in line with the review of the Constitution and meeting procedures
- Consideration of a voting card / paddle / electronic system to determine voting delegates
- Consideration of AGM timing (being the day before or first item on the day)
- The price point of the conference was a consideration for some members of the public who did not attend, do we consider a community based session, a non-member day rate? – Tim Phillips to provide advice

Action

Send a copy of the MDA Constitution to members of Region 6 to seek comments and suggestions by 30 January 2024 to feed in to the MDA National review of the Constitution in early 2024.

7.2 Establish Forward Agenda

Ordinary Meetings

- AGM - 2 February 2024 (RCMB)
- OGM – 3 May 2024 (Coorong)
- OGM - 2 August 2024 (Alexandrina)
- OGM - 1 November 2024 (RCMB or another location TBD)

Inter-regional meeting date and agenda

- To be discussed at the next Executive MDA Region 6 Meeting along with the Calendar of Events

MDA National Motion preparation

- Current Region 6 Motions to be added to the Action List / Workplan to ensure continual monitoring
  - Tim Phillips to provide a briefing paper on the various discussion papers out for comment to each Region 6 Meeting.
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8. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

8.1 Updated calendar of events (Attachment 6)

Refer item 7.

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10. **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Agenda Items

- Workplan (Region 6 Motions)
  - Constitution Review
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10.2 Guest Speakers – Ideas for next meeting

- Senior Executive from SA Water (David Coombs)
- Future Meeting - Dr Alec Rolston, Director of the Goyder Institute

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11. **CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 11:50am.

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*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Rural City of Murray Bridge for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 6.*

ATTACHMENT 1

2023 REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP As of August 2023				
Position	Name	Council	Executive Member	Voting Member
<b>Council Representatives</b>				
Chair	Cr Airlie Keen (Chair)	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Mayor Wayne Thorley	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	CEO Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Stephen Packer (Proxy)	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	CEO Bridget Mather (Proxy)	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council		
	CEO Nigel Morris	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Milli Livingston	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Stewart Burns	City of Victor Harbor		
	Cr Carlos Quaremba	City of Victor Harbor		
	Kathy Hayter (proxy)	City of Victor Harbor		
	CEO Anne Champness	Tatiara District Council		
	Mayor Liz Goossens	Tatiara District Council		
	Mayor Ron Valentine	Southern Mallee District Council		
	Cr Luke Kennedy	Southern Mallee District Council		
	A/CEO Matthew Sherman (proxy)	Southern Mallee District Council		
<b>Individual Member</b>				
	Adrian Pederick, MP JP			
	Colin Grundy			
	Warren Jacobs			
	Melissa Rebbeck			
<b>Life Members</b>				
	Graham Camac			
	Phillip Moore			
	Barry Featherstone			
	Frank Tuckwell			
<b>Executive Officer</b>				
	Ashleigh Atze	Rural City of Murray Bridge		



**Murray Darling Association Region 6. Ordinary Meeting  
Matters in progress arising from previous meeting**

Description			Persons Responsible	Status / Conclusion
2022	ACTION	Bridget to report back on MRLGA Water Position Paper Workshop to be held 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2022.	Bridget Mather	ONGOING
Feb 2023 4.1	ACTION	Circulate Previous Chair Report to all members. (Will be included in Minutes from this meeting)	Coordinator	COMPLETED
Feb 2023 4.4	ACTION	Circulate MDA CEO Performance Review Report to all members (Will be included in Minutes from this meeting)	Coordinator	COMPLETED
Feb 2023 4.6	ACTION	Heather to bring Report back to next Ordinary meeting regarding flood recovery	Heather Barclay	ONGOING
June 2023 4.2	ACTION	Mark to provide report on non-riparian council rate to Coordinator for distribution.	Mark Lamb	ONGOING
June 2023 4.3	ACTION	Mark Lamb to provide a copy of MDA Report to Productivity Commission to Coordinator for distribution. Region 6 to acknowledge the MDA report and send with Cover Letter in support of the submission Send Cr Burns Region 6 submitted Motions and web link to National AGM Motions	Mark Lamb	ONGOING
June 2023 4.4	ACTION	Melissa Rebbeck to send follow up email to Greg Burns regarding alleged illegal dams.	Melissa Rebbeck	ONGOING
June 2023 5.1	ACTION	Coordinator to circulate letter from Minister Plibersek to all Members	Coordinator	COMPLETED
June 2023 7.2	ACTION	Coordinator to converse with Executive Members to arrange an amended date for the next Executive Meeting as the 7 July is not viable.	Coordinator	COMPLETED
June 2023 9.1	ACTION	Email sent to all Ordinary Members to nominate to be on the Working Party for Motions. Once formed the Working Party will agree on a time to meet Online to discuss the formation of Motions to present back to the Ordinary Members.	Coordinator	COMPLETED

June 2023 10	ACTION	Coordinator to send an email to Alex Zimmerman to invite him to speak at the 11 August Region 6 Meeting.	Coordinator	ONGOING
Nov 2023 10	ACTION	Coordinator to send an email to SA Water to seek an Executive Member of staff at the next MDA Region 6 meeting (February)	Coordinator	ONGOING
Nov 2023 4.1	ACTION	Coordinator to send an email to Dr Alec Rolston, Director of the Goyder Institute to speak at a future MDA Region 6 meeting (August)	Coordinator	ONGOING
Nov 2023 4.1	ACTION	That a letter be sent to Rebekah Sharkie MP thanking her for hosting the Murray Darling Basin Community Information Session and hope that the Research Hub is the start of a longer term project.	Coordinator / Chair	ONGOING
Nov 2023 7.1	ACTION	Send a copy of the MDA Constitution to members of Region 6 to seek comments and suggestions by 30 January 2024 to feed in to the MDA National review of the Constitution in early 2024.	Coordinator	ONGOING

## MDBA UPDATE Dec 2023

Quick update, sorry I am unable to attend.

The last couple of months have been busy out in the community.

I attended the Riverland Field days, and it was nice to put faces to community members, some I have had regular discussion with for years, as an irrigator, but never meet. Discussion was varied: Restoring Our River Bill, buybacks, Murray Cod, paddle boats of the past along with the struggle of grape growers for the season ahead.

I also visited the Riverland with the Listening tour, in early October, and this group included Sir Angus Houston, Andrew McConville and Scott Ashby from the MDBA and Sheryl Hedges from DCCEEW. We covered a range of sites and talked with community stakeholders, environmentalists, irrigators, councillors, government agencies and a local MP. I can let you know both Sir Angus and Andrew loved the area, and I believe all the sites we visited were new to them. I think the highlight was the morning boat cruise, with River Murray trails, and the discussion over netted trees and how far watering has moved forward, all wished they had a chance for a longer discussion at the local Date farm.

The top points I keep hearing out in the community:

- 450 Environmental water is NOT for SA it's for the environment – how do we continue to get this point through.
- Effects of Sea-Level Rise: climate change and its effects in the Coorong Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth area going forward, making sure this is built into the future.
- Greater First Nations involvement, Cultural water – this is ongoing and is being addressed.
- SDLAM projects – extension of deadlines and costs, will the 'restoring our river' bill address this.
- Constraints – part of the plan, need flow to be achieved not just a water amount recovered.
- Buybacks- part of a water recovery tool kit but not the first thing to be used. Willing sellers only and how will people who lease water be helped if they are the actual water users not water holder.
- Transitional programs for community- how will this work, how will it get the right areas and how do you know what areas will suffer if a licence is held in one place but leased to another area.

Community is concerned about the time ahead, they want to know what is going to happen, but the Restoring Our Rivers Bill is still in parliament, we need to see what comes out and work from that point. Support your community and please, don't let bullying happen to those with the little voice that have a difference of opinion to the big voices.

Regards

*Kate*

Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray SA

[Kate.Bartlett@mdba.gov.au](mailto:Kate.Bartlett@mdba.gov.au)

Phone: 0409 726751

### LINKS TO ALL THINGS MDBA

**Basin Plan Annual Report 2022-23** [Murray-Darling Basin Annual Report 2022-23 \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

**Basin Plan Report Card** [Basin Plan Report Card publications](#) | [Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

**SA Regional Engagement Forum 4<sup>th</sup> December** [Get Involved @ MDBA](#)

**MDB Authority Meeting 12 December** [Murray–Darling Basin Authority Communique – October 2023 | Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

**Roadmap** -6 monthly updates [Roadmap to the 2026 Basin Plan Review | Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

**Restoring Our Rivers Bill 2023** [Water amendment \(Restoring Our Rivers\) Bill 2023 Fact Sheet – DCCEEW](#)

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/policy/restoring-our-rivers-bill>

**Newsroom** [Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

**Subscribe** [Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

- Media releases – Regular news and announcements delivered to your inbox.
- River Murray weekly report – Weekly updates on operations, river flows, rainfall, salinity.
- MDBA conferences and webinars (including River Reflections Conference 2023)

**River Murray weekly reports** [Murray–Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#)

**NSW Water Resource Plan Assessment** [NSW Government’s commitment](#)