



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Monday 13 September 2021

Commencing 10.00am at the Karoonda Institute – Supper Room, Karoonda  
& Via Zoom Video Conferencing

1. **COMMENCEMENT** The Meeting commenced at 10.00am

2. **WELCOME**

Welcome by Cr Peter Raison

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Present:	Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council
	Cr Jeff Hall	Mid Murray Council
	Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council
	Cr Mike Fuller	Berri Barmera Council
	Cr Peter Walker	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
	Cr Yvonne Smith	District Council of Karoonda East Murray
	Cr Margaret Howie	Renmark Paringa Council
	Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council
	Emma Bradbury	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association
	Tim Phillips	Communications & Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Association
	Myles Fauser	Environmental Officer, Renmark Paringa Council (from 10.05am)
	Tim Smythe	CEO, Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association (from 10.07am)
Apologies:	Cr Kym Webber	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
	Ian Mann	Mid Murray Private Member
	Mayor Neil Martinson	Renmark Paringa Council

4. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

5. **MINUTES**

#### **Moved**

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on the 26 October 2020 are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **Seconded**

*Minutes were not adopted, need to check if there were any meetings between the 26 October 2020 and 13 September 2021.*

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

### Water Position Statement

Cr Kassebaum provided the following update:

- Expressions of Interest have gone out, received five applications.
- Applications were narrowed down to three.
- The three applicants were asked to give a presentation to the Working Group on their interpretation of the brief, what they had to offer and put the brief in two different price brackets (\$40,000 to \$50,000 and \$80,000 to \$90,000 price brackets). Price bracket will depend on the outcome of the Building Better Regions funding application.
- The Working Groups has decided on the preferred contractor.
- Letters will be sent to the other four applicants.

Emma discussed the reasons for choosing the preferred contractor.

### Renmark Paringa Council – Water Stewardship

Myles Fauser, Environmental Officer, Renmark Paringa Council, spoke about Renmark Paringa Council's Water Stewardship plan.

- Identified everything they do with water.
- Understanding their water balance, total inflows versus total outflows to understand where they can improve on what they are doing.
- Developed the water stewardship plan on the basis that it would be of an international standard, Alliance Water Stewardship Standard (AWSS) (international water stewardship Standard).

Emma extended an invitation through the Chair to invited the Renmark Paringa Council to make a presentation to the Board of the Murray Darling Association and to encourage Region 5 to make a resolution that Region 5 promotes the adoption of water stewardship and the preparation of Water Stewardship Plans by Murray Darling Association member Council's

Emma congratulated Myles, Cr Peter Hunter and the Renmark Paringa Council on their Water Stewardship Plan.

Cr Raison asked what was the cost saving to the Renmark Paringa Council. Myles advised that cost savings cannot be quantified yet as they have only just developed and implemented the plan. The cost of implementation is probably around \$30,000, which covers auditing costs, staff time, development of the plan, formal processes and involvement of the AWSS.

Emma proposed the following a motion.

**Moved Cr Raison**

**Seconded Cr Hall**

That:

1. Region 5 commends Renmark Paringa Council and Myles Fauser on the development of their Water Stewardship Plan and the work that has gone into it.
2. Region 5 recommends the process to the Board of the Murray Darling Association for their consideration.
3. Region 5 invite Renmark Paring Council to take a leadership role in encouraging this at a Basin scale.

CARRIED

Cr Raison thanked Myles and congratulated the Renmark Paringa Council on their Water Stewardship Plan.

10.29am Myles Fauser left the meeting

### **Water Position Statement**

Tim Smythe, Chief Executive Officer, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association provided the following update:

- Identified a preferred supplier, will start negotiations on the terms of the contract.
- A grant application was submitted to the Building Better Regions Fund to help develop the Water Position paper. The Department will make their announcements in October.
- Discussed the reasons for choosing the preferred contractor.
- Discussed the reasons for the Water Position Statement

Tim Smythe left 10:41am

### **Climate Variation Position Statement and Action Plan**

Cr Kassebaum advised that this region did a climate variation document, as soon as he has located the document he will present it to the Region.

## **7. REPORTS**

CEO's current report was tabled at the meeting and noted as read

Emma Bradbury advised / discussed the following:

- Introduced Tim Phillips the new Communications and Engagement Officer.
- Emma has been invited to make a presentation to the Basins official committee on behalf of the MDA later next week.
- The leadership program – will be held in October in South Australia, Loxton, Berri, Barmera, Lower Lakes and Swan Reach. A local facilitator for the workshops has been appointed, Nat Summerfield.
- Emma formally confirmed that she has tendered her resignation as CEO to the Board of the Murray Darling Association effective upon the appointment of her successor. Emma has been in her role for seven and a half years.
- Applications for CEO have been advertised and close on the 27 September 2021.

On behalf of Region 5, Cr Raison thanked Emma for everything she was done for the Murray Darling Association and the help she has provided to him.

Cr Peter Hunter thanked Emma personally and on behalf of Region 5 and that the organisation is so much better for the work she has done.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

Next ordinary meeting to be held on Monday 13 December 2021 at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Council offices and via zoom.

## **10. CLOSURE**

10.59am The Chair declared the meeting closed.

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