



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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NOTICE OF Meeting

The Murray Darling Association Region Eight Meeting will be held on
Friday 28 February 2019 02-00pm (or directly at the end of Legatus Group meeting)

Location: Sports Club upstairs at the Valleys Lifestyle Centre Main North Road Clare

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Chair Cr Brian Lockyer**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Attendance**
4. **Apologies**
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Nil was AGM)**
6. **Business Arising Nil**
7. **Reports**
 - 7.1 **Chairman's Report**

Since Friday 29th November 2019 AGM there has been a very devastating period of upheaval events. The major bush fires both in SA and the eastern states. Our prayers and thoughts go to the communities that were affected. I think this reiterates the benefits of the position the MDA is in representing local communities. The louder the voice, the better it is for all. I would like if MDA members in Region 8 have any concerns or comments, to please pass on to myself, Simon Millcock or Emma Bradbury to be addressed. Apologies for not communicating to members prior to the meeting but the moving on of our CEO Andrew Cole and Drought Funding have kept my hands full.

The upcoming Moama NSW "Strategic Planning Workshop" on the 12th-13th March 2020 would be so great if respective members could attend: <https://www.mda.asn.au/mda-strategic-planning-workshop/event-details.aspx>

The "Resilient Towns, Resilient Lives Forum" will be held at Clare Town Hall on the 27th March 2020 is fast approaching: <https://www.yorkeandmidnorth.com.au/event/2020-yorke-and-mid-north-regional-forum-resilient-towns-resilient-lives/>

Plus I encourage people to attend the SA Regional Climate Ready Conference and associated events 17- 18 April 2020 in Clare:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ethical-living-networking-event-tickets-94065669951>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/climate-ready-regions-conference-south-australia-tickets-89506621715>

This will include Richard Minter Local Engagement Officer, Southern Basin Section
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Topic: Environmental Watering - Lessons from the Field.

7.2 CEO's Report

Emma Bradbury is available via phone if required and her February 2020 report is attached:



CEO's report -
February 2020.pdf

Further items below from the CEO below:

Item 1

In line with MDA's Strategic Plan, we have now employed a dedicated Grants and Policy Officer. Gemma Wilson commenced with the MDA in December 2019.

After success in obtaining funding through the MDBEDP (Round 1) for the Basin Communities Leadership Program in 2019, the following grant applications have been submitted for Round 2.

- Basin Communities Leadership Program 2.0

Delivery of a high-level leadership program delivered across 15 of the 31 eligible and identified MDBED (Round 2) communities.

- Regional Economic Diversification Program

Establishment of a network of 6 place-based Regional Development Officers who will draw on local knowledge and experience to develop Regional Economic Diversification Plans across the identified MDBED (Round 2) communities.

- Next Generation Mental Health First Aid Program

Delivery of a Mental Health First Aid Course to Basin youth, via a nationally accredited provider, across 10 specified MDBEDP (Round 2) communities.

The MDA is pleased to have received written support for the above projects from the following organisations, councils and individuals:

CSIRO

Moree Plains Shire Council (NSW)

NRM Regions Queensland

Narromine Shire Council

Balonne Shire Council (QLD)

Rural City of Murray Bridge (SA)

Berri Barmera Council

Wentworth Shire Council (NSW)

Brewarrina Shire Council (NSW)

Senator Senator Perin Davey (NSW)

Coorong Council (SA)

Tony Pasi MP (SA)

Mid Murray Council (SA)

Item 2

In response to concerns raised by councils in the far west NSW the MDA has written to Minister Pavey to encourage her continuing protection of first flush flows by maintaining the embargo on pumping for sufficient time to ensure the effective recharge of the Barwon Darling system, and to urge for completion of the WRPs to inter alia provide certainty and regulation of provisions for floodplain harvesting.

Item 3

MDA has written to the Ministerial Council and to BOC to encourage their immediate attention to ensuring sound strategic leadership of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority by filling the vacancies on the board, particularly the Chair at their earliest opportunity.

Item 4

National President David Thurley and I will be in Canberra next week for a range of meetings. Report to follow.

8. General Business

8.1 Future Drought Fund

The Legatus Group confirmed its support for the formation of a working group between the Yorke and Mid North Alliance and RDA Barossa, Light, Gawler, Adelaide Plains and RDA Far North to discuss the identification and prioritising of regional strategic projects that are scoped and ready for activating when funding opportunities occur. A meeting was held between all organisations CEOs and included a PIRSA representative.

The working group agreed that to assist in developing funding application/s there was a need to establish an update on the region's climate change vulnerability assessment. The climate change vulnerability assessment update will provide relevant information that allows the communities within the region to identify activities that are occurring that relate to responding to drought and climate change and to recognise potential areas of improvement in order to define drought resilience projects that may be included within a bid.

The Fund will support initiatives that enhance the drought resilience of Australian farms and communities by becoming more prepared to respond to the impacts of drought. This includes investment in research and innovation, research extension and adoption of new and existing technology, improved environmental and natural resource management, infrastructure and community initiatives. This will make agriculture more productive and profitable and enhance the wellbeing of farming communities and the sustainability of the farming sector. These funded projects will:

- help farms and communities be more prepared to respond to the impacts of drought
- lift the productivity and profitability of the agriculture sector
- enhance the health and sustainability of Australia's farming.

Edge Environment were contracted to provide the update and they have met with the working group with a draft report due by 20 February for consideration.

Whilst predominately focussed around agriculture there are a number of Legatus Group projects which may link into a broader regional / strategic approach including:

- Volunteering (emergency services)
- Digital awareness
- Wellbeing Alliance of Northern Councils
- Community Water projects

9. Other Business

10. Close