



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## MINUTES - Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

**Location:** Coorong District Council Chambers  
95-101 Railway Terrace, TAILEM BEND

**Time/date:** 10am, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2019

**Guest Speaker :** **Barb Cowey**, Drought Response with Regional Coordinator  
Murraylands and Riverland - PIRSA / Regions SA

**Chair:** Councillor Melissa Rebbeck

**Executive Officer:** Tracey Strugnell, Coorong District Council

**At 12.04pm Julie Barrie and Frank Tuckwell left the meeting.**

**At 12.40pm Peter Smith left meeting.**

**In attendance:**

**Apologies:** Adrian Pederick (Member for Hammond), Vincent Cammell, Councillor Tracy Hill, & Mayor Paul Simmons (Coorong District Council), Heather Barclay and Mayor Brenton Lewis (Rural City of Murray Bridge), Keith Loeser, Glenn Rappensberg & Councillor Michael Scott, Shen Mann (Alexandrina Council), Monique White & Deana Mildren (MDBA), Michelle Campbell (CEWH), Councillor Steven Wilkinson (Mid Murray Council).

### 1. WELCOME

Provided by Councillor Brenton Qualmann of Coorong District Council.

Chair Melissa Rebbeck welcomed new private member Bruce Books.

Round table introductions.

### 2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

#### 2.1 Present:

#### Voting Members:

#### **Alexandrina Council**

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck

Anne Liddell representing CEO Glenn Rappensberg

#### **Rural City of Murray Bridge**

Malcolm Downie

**Coorong District Council**  
Councillor Vern Leng  
Councillor Brenton Qualmann

**Individual Members**

Julie Barrie  
Bruce Brooks  
Frank Tuckwell

**Guests**

Councillor Peter Smith –Mid Murray Council  
Geoff Gallasch - Coorong Shack Owners  
Councillor Neville Jaensch – Coorong District Council

**Executive Support**

Executive Officer - Tracey Strugnell (Coorong District Council)

**3. HOUSEKEEPING**

**4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests declared.

**5. MINUTES**

Minute check of the previous Ordinary Meetings held on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

Councillor Vern Leng moved to accept these meetings as true and correct.  
Seconded Julie Barrie. Carried.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**INCOMING**

- **Irrigation Information Meetings, 13-18 March** (via email)

*More information about water allocations will come out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Water trading workshops will follow. Jarrod Eaton's presentation was excellent and is available on the DEW Murray Darling Basin Workshop website.*

ACTION: Ask Jarrod Eaton of DEW to produce a fact sheet about why we need the Barrages.

Moved: Councillor Vern Leng. Seconded: Bruce Brooks. Carried.

- **Coorong Dire Straits Tinny Tour Flyer & Invitation – 30<sup>th</sup> March** (via email)
- **Correspondence between Minister Littleproud & Lifeblood Alliance re Darling River fish kill and failure of Basin Plan**
- **Region 5 Minutes and Priority Summary from Councillor Peter Hunter (via email)**
- **Murray Darling Association – Media Release Budget 2019** (via email)

- **Advance notice “The Future of the Murray-Darling Basin”- what is needed next? 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Adelaide**

**OUTGOING      \*To be ratified**

- **News Update sent out on 18<sup>th</sup> of March**
- **\*Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019**  
Councillor Vern Leng moved that this be ratified, seconded by Frank Tuckwell. Carried.
- **\*Region 6 - Murray Darling Association Letter of Support for MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program Application – 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019**  
Councillor Julie Barrie moved that this be ratified, seconded by Malcolm Downie. Carried.
- **\*Region 6 response to the SA Murray Darling Royal Commission**  
Amendments to these letters were discussed.  
Frank Tuckwell moved that the letter to Minister Speirs be ratified, seconded by Councillor Brenton Qualmann. Carried.  
Julie Barrie moved that the letter to Minister Littleproud be ratified, seconded by Councillor Brenton Qualmann. Carried.
- **Region 6 Report to MDA Board Meeting 384**
- **Letter of thanks to Neil Andrew – immediate past chair MDBA**
- **Media Release: new Chair Melissa Rebbeck**
- **Media Release: Murray Darling Association reaction to Budget 2019**

**7. BUSINESS ARISING**

**7.1 Ordinary and Executive Meetings Action Lists**

Tracey Strugnell asked that approval for completed items be removed from the Executive Meeting Action List. Moved by Councillor Vern Leng, seconded Julie Barrie. Carried.

Malcolm Downie asked about Council contributions to Murray Darling Association, and the contributions toward the Region 6 Executive Officer position. Discussion and clarification ensued.

Tracey Strugnell asked that approval for completed items to be removed from the Ordinary Meeting Action List. Moved by Julie Barrie, seconded by Councillor Vern Leng. Carried.

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 CEO’s Report – via phone conference**

**Minutes of Murray Darling Association Board Meeting No. 383 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 & CEO’s Report provided as separate hard copy documents at meeting.**

Emma Bradbury announced that this project had been successful, and the positive feedback from Minister Littleproud and the funding body. This project will be enable provision of Murray Darling

Basin leadership at the local level. This project will target regional leaders across communities to improve their knowledge about Murray Darling Basin processes, and empower them to create projects.

The Murray Darling Association has changed website service provider which should improve the accessibility of the web site. James Marshall has commenced with the Murray Darling Association to work on development of member services, position papers, and communication.

Emma Bradbury and Chair David Thurley presented a Murray Darling Basin Business Case to several Ministerial Offices in Canberra in regard to the value proposition offered by the body

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck asked Emma Bradbury about the preparation process in the lead up to the Toowoomba MDA AGM and National Conference.

Region 6 need to prepare in the lead up to Toowoomba MDA AGM and National Conference ;

- State and Regional positions to present, motions to present, what presentations we would like to see.
- Region 6 need to ensure that all motions and positions are aligned with Member Council policy.
- A motion supporting work to ensure the ongoing health of the Northern Basin that is imperative to the ongoing health of the Southern Basin.

Councillor Peter Smith stated that we need to find ways to support the Northern Basin. This support may be a position to the next Federal Government that action must be taken or the Northern Basin may not recover. The problems in the Southern Basin will get worse if the Northern Basin is not fixed.

Emma Bradbury responded with;

- We need to keep looking at the system holistically. This is being done through the Catchments and Communities workshop series.
- This year's national conference is being hosted in the Northern Basin, to help improve basin wide understanding of this region. A lot of the discussions will be focussed on the Northern Basin.
- The importance of a holistic approach. We need to work as a whole Murray Darling Basin community, working at a high level.
- Working to support the NSW Government on their non compliance undertakings, and managing the sustainability of the expanding irrigation footprint.
- Murray Darling Association has made an approach to the incoming New South Wales Water Minister.
- The Murray Darling Association Board has resolved to seek responses from each Region Chair to contribute to an overall Murray Darling Association response to the Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission Report.

Councillor Vern Leng asked Emma Bradbury a question about boundary realignments.

Frank Tuckwell asked Emma Bradbury a question about the Upper House inquiry into the Clarence River Storm Water Basin Scheme. This may now have relevance to the Northern Basin. Emma suggested to have a look back through the resolutions of the last few AGM's, and for Region 6 to put forward a considered motion in regard to this matter to the AGM.

District Council of Yankalilla correspondence. Emma Bradbury has had an approach from this Council. She encouraged District Council of Yankalilla to attend Region 6 Meetings.

**ACTION:** Alexandrina Council to make an approach and invitation to District Council of Yankalilla. Councils are free to join the Region that best fits their identity.

## 8.2 Chair's Report

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck provided her impressions of her first Murray Darling Association Board Meeting. She expressed the importance of Board and Region Members having sufficient knowledge and experience to effectively participate on these organisations.

## 8.3 Executive Officer Report

- Application made as part of the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan funding application to the Natural Resources SA MDB Community Grants to assist with running a Region 6 Symposium, and set up of a 'groups in the Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong' web page.
- News update sent on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March
- Royal Commission on the Murray Darling Basin response
- Region 6 Executive Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March
- Press Releases: New Region 6 Chair Melissa Rebbeck, & MDA Budget Response
- Trialing a Region 6 MDA web page
- Ongoing distribution of news and information as it comes in

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 9.1 Recent Events

Reports were given by members who had attended these events.

<b>Connecting Catchments and Communities</b>	Renmark – 22 <sup>nd</sup> of February
<b>Launch of NRSE Our Coorong, Our Coast NLP2 Project</b>	Noonameena
<b>River Murray Water Allocation &amp; Carryover Workshops</b>	Murray Bridge & Langhorne Creek 18 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>River Murray Water Allocation &amp; Carryover workshops</b>	Goolwa Yacht Club Event
<b>Coorong Dire Straits Tinny Tour</b>	Goolwa to Seven Mile Road -30 <sup>th</sup> March

See Attachment 1, Coorong Dire Straits Tinny Tour Report from Bruce Brooks.

## **9.2 Continuity through Local Government Elections / Vice Chair position? Julie Barrie**

Julie Barrie said that ongoing leadership is important to keep Region 6 running. This became an issue at the last Local Government election due to the non re-election of two key leading members of Region 6. Region 6 was not represented on the Murray Darling Association Board during this time, and Region 6 momentum was lost.

Julie suggested that we put forward to the two motions to change this process at to the Murray Darling Association Board level, rather than changing the Region 6 Constitution.

Julie Barrie moved that Region 6 write to the Murray Darling Basin Board asking for change in process whereby an existing Regional Chairperson be allowed to continue in the role of Chair until the following AGM of Region 6, regardless of their position in Local Government.

Julie Barrie moved that Region 6 write to the Murray Darling Association Board asking for a change to process whereby the deemed Vice Chair or nominated member be allowed to attend National Board meeting in the absence of the usual Chairperson.

Anne Liddell expressed concern about the governance of this approach in regard to the Region 6 relationship to Local Government.

**ACTION:** Malcolm Downie suggested that these motions are taken back to the Region 6 Executive to come up with some recommendations to go forward.

Moved by Malcolm Downie, seconded by Councillor Vern Leng.

## **9.3 Working toward the Murray Darling Association 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee National Conference and AGM in Toowoomba – October 22-24, 2019 Julie Barrie**

<https://www.mda.asn.au/annual-conference/2019-toowoomba.aspx>

- Start considering motions for the Toowoomba Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM
- Who will attend the Toowoomba Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM?
- Plan up to 2 Inter Regional SA meetings in the lead up to the Toowoomba Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM

The meetings occur at LGA House. Councillor Neville Jaensch explained that he as past Coorong District Council Mayor, Mayor Keith Parks, President Telfer and Stephen Smith at the LGA can assist with organising these inter regional meetings. High quality speakers can also be attracted. Some LGA Board Members are also members of the MDA Regions.

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck asked whether Region 6 can ask for particular speakers who could represent the South Australian situation accurately at the National Conference. Councillor Peter Smith suggested that Jarrod Eaton (DEW) would be a terrific speaker.

**ACTION:** Executive Officer to email around a document to spark discussion for potential motions, speakers, and ideas for the Toowoomba AGM.

**ACTION:** Work toward a June Inter-regional Meeting. Topics to potentially include: South East Drainage Workshops, Barrages, Jarrod Eaton, surface and groundwater flows in the South East, a presentation from Professor Mike Young.

**ACTION:** Seek availability for speakers, members, other Regions, LGA. Start pinning down dates for Inter Regional Meetings and Symposium.

It was discussed whether the inter regional meeting and Symposium be run back to back.

**ACTION:** Councillor Vern Leng suggested that Chair Melissa Rebbeck suggest to the Murray Darling Association Board Rydges at Tailem Bend as a potential future National Conference location.

#### 9.4 Groups Symposium and Web Page concepts

**Cr Melissa Rebbeck**

<http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/region6mda>

**Tracey Strugnell**

**Timing:** May - June 2019.

**Convened by:** Region 6 Murray Darling Association.

**Invitees:** All River, Lakes and Coorong related groups in our region, other SA MDA Regions & potentially Mildura / Wentworth, RDAs, all Councillors, relevant staff, SABFAC.

**Symposium Aim:** This session is about collaboration and understanding between the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong Groups and our actions going forward as a region.

#### DRAFT PROGRAM

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jarrod Eaton (DEW)	River, Lakes and Coorong scenarios for the coming season
Economic Development Managers (RDA's)	Potential low river scenarios and trigger points to roll out a community and economic response
Minister David Speirs Dept for Environment and Water	Our Coorong, Our Coast – Natural Resources SE (Commonwealth NLP2 funding - \$3 million plus), Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (announced at the Ministerial Council Meeting in December- \$70 million).
Murray Darling Basin Authority	Economic Development Fund
Melissa Rebbeck	The Climate Change context

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck said this is a good opportunity to understand the ‘what if’ scenarios, and also to have a constructive forum discussion between groups to be clear about how we work together going forward.

Anne Liddell suggested that a facilitated discussion around advocacy and where groups are similar and different. The facilitator can then put together where they are similar and different. This could also be done through a panel discussion to share knowledge and understanding.

Tracey Strugnell suggested Wellington as a location for the Symposium.

ACTION: Councillor Melissa Rebbeck asked the group to think about what other outcomes Region 6 would like to see from that Symposium.

### **9.5 Suggestion to spend time of revisiting and reviewing Region 6 Strategic Documents at a future meeting** **Tracey Strugnell**

To familiarise group and revisit the ideas in these documents in the current and changing Murray Darling Basin political environment.

Revisit Strategic Planning process, outcomes, and status.

Revisit Communication Strategy process, outcomes, and status.

Name & Tagline Adopted: “Murray to Mouth: Working together to secure a freshwater future for the Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong”.

Councillor Brenton Qualmann commented that the Communication Strategy objectives looked very positive.

Councillor Vern Leng asked whether the Region 6 Strategic Plan could be promoted in the Council newsletters and via media release.

ACTION: Region 6 members to review the Draft Strategic Plan and Communication and Engagement Plan to come back to our next Ordinary Meeting to discuss and review.

ACTION: Consider input of Region 6 articles and promotions in local newsletters and Council Newsletters. Discuss promotional options vs governance considerations at the Executive Meeting.

### **9.6 Schedule of Potential Guest Speakers and Tours for Region 6 Ordinary Meetings**

Things are moving fast in the MDB space. Has this changed what you want to hear about or see?

#### **Speakers**

- *Speaker on new Our Coorong, Our Coast project (NRSE)*
- *Jarrold Eaton- River Murray Water Operations Manager (DEW)*
- *Salinity Management*
- *Goyder re alternative water sources for urban areas i.e. desal & recycled*
- *Local irrigator who has participated in water recovery/efficiency upgrades*
- *Use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant. What does it mean in relation to the 450GL?*
- *Professor Mike Young – MDB Water Audits*
- *Faith Coleman – Ecologist, Coorong Trust*



- *Focus on integrated water management i.e. utilisation of alternative water sources such as recycled storm water and wastewater*
- *Livestock Water Security*
- *Gary Hera Singh – Lake & Coorong Fishery*
- *MDBA Regional Engagement Officer to provide future presentation to MDA-R6 on SA's three supply/constraint projects.*

#### **Tours**

- *Organise a visit for all MDA Region 6 and Councillors to the barrages. Organise with Ann Liddell at Alexandrina Council.*

It was agreed that there will be no guest speaker at the next meeting. The meeting focus will be on a revisit to the Strategic Plan and Communications and Engagement Plan.

#### **12.30pm Break for Lunch**

#### **10 GUEST SPEAKER 1pm**

#### **Barb Cowey, Drought Response with Regional Coordinator, Murraylands and Riverland PIRSA / Regions SA**

Barb Cowey discussed some recent Federal Announcements and programs;

- Taillem Bend has been announced as a 'trusted advocate network'. Businesses might be identified as advocates for mental health.
- The Murraylands Drought Network has been established which is attended by Tracey Strugnell and Mayor Paul Simmons (Coorong District Council). There is interest in targetting whole families in drought, not just the men.
- This work supports the work of the Farm and Business Mentors. Their aim is to ensure people are OK and are connected to the resources available.
- Barb is attending a Bureau of Meteorology big data workshop next week, and is looking forward to learning about the resources available.
- The data for the next few months both climatically is not terribly positive. Late breaks to the season are predicted.
- Barb was impressed with the tone of the conversation at the recent Irrigation Workshops. The River Murray Water Allocation Plan sign off by Minister Speirs has provided some safe guards. We are in a better position than we were 15 years ago. River management has improved.
- The importance of 'one river' thinking going forward. Already a better approach this time that during the millennium drought.
- Barb Cowey and Kym Walton have been completing work comparing irrigation crop water use and land footprint comparing 2009 and 2018 data. This information is available upon request. This includes work by Mark Skewes of SARDI about in what month what crop requires what water. Currently the Clare and Barossa Valley Irrigation areas are not included in this data.

**ACTION:** Barb Cowey to provide this presentation to Tracey Strugnell to forward to Region 6.

**ACTION:** Consider Tom Rooney and Stuart Peavor from Waterfind as potential Symposium or National Conference speakers.

- A key difference between this dry period and the the millennium drought is that commodity prices are in a better place now than they were then.
- Barb suggested that someone like Tom Rooney and Stuart Peavor from Waterfind would be a valuable speaker at a Symposium. Knowledge of water trading could be improved in the irrigator audience.

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck said that this body of work could be well worth presenting at the Symposium, or the National Conference at Toowomba.

Councillor Melissa Rebbeck commented that it would be valuable if stream flow reduction data could be demonstrated. This would be very powerful region by region.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**11.1 Region Boundary Changes**

ACTION: Councillor Vern Leng said that he would like confirmation of Murray Darling Association Board policy around Region boundary changes.

**12 MEMBER REPORTS**

**13 NEXT MEETING:**

Ordinary Meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of June – to be hosted by Rural City of Murray Bridge.

**14 CLOSE**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks Coorong District Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 6 – Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong.*

### CURRENT REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP

Position	Name	Council	Member of Executive	Voting Member
Chair	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina		
Executive Officer	Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Vincent Cammell	Coorong District		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
Private Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
Private Member Applicant	Bruce Brooks			

### NEXT MEETING DATES

<b>Agreed Ordinary Meeting schedule for Region 6 for 2019</b>  <b>Ongoing locations to be confirmed 10am-2pm</b>	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> of August
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> of February, Goolwa	MDA – AGM October 22-24, Toowoomba
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> of April Coorong District Council Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> of October - Alexandrina Council, Goolwa - Chambers
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> of June - to be hosted by Rural City of Murray Bridge	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> of December

<b>Meeting schedule for Region 6 Executive Group for 2019</b>  <b>Some locations to be confirmed 10am-1pm</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> of July  Strathalbyn Library, Angas Room
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> of March  Strathalbyn Library, Bremer Room	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> of September Strathalbyn Library, Angas Room
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> of June – location to be confirmed	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> of December – location to be confirmed

