



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Region 11 Meeting
12:15, Friday 9 August, 2019
Walgett Sports Club**

MINUTES – August 2019

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr John Campbell - Chair	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Don Forbes	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Brian Murray	Tenterfield Shire Council
Noelene Hyde	Tenterfield Shire Council & Secretariat BROCC
Cr John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr Ian Woodcock	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Bill Murray	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Kelly Smith	Walgett Shire Council
Greg Ingham	Walgett Shire Council – General Manager
Mike Urquhart	Walgett Shire Council - CFO
Lou Gall*	Northern Inland Regional Dev. Aust
Dr Peta Derham*	MDBA
Annabelle Guest*	REO, MDBA
Angus Witherby*	Moree Plains Shire Council
Emma Bradbury#	CEO, MDA

* Non-member– attendance by invitation

Attendance by teleconference

1.2 Apologies

Cr Creg Sauer	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Owen Hasler	Gunnedah Shire Council

Action: That the apologies be accepted

Move D Forbes/Frances Young Carried

2. WELCOME – Meeting commenced at 12:15

2.1 Welcome to Country was extended by Kamilaroi Elder Stephen Ruttley with a period of silence to remember all deceased persons

2.2 Cr John Campbell welcomed delegates and thanked them for their attendance. He also remarked it is the largest attendance we have had thus far. Stated we will get through the meeting as expeditiously as possible as most delegates had long distances to travel.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil received

4. MINUTES

Motion: The minutes of the meeting held at Moree on 14/6/2019 as circulated were accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting with the amendment to the persons present, as Cr Frances Young was an apology and not present.

Action: Move D Forbes/ J Campbell Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING

NIL

6. REPORTS

6.1 Chief Executive Officer

Emma reported on the Ministerial Council update:-

- 5 year review commitment
- Funding activities including the Basin Communities Leadership Program and the Municipal Community Engagement Program
- MDA Engagement Program - an engagement officer has been employed to further same.
- Connecting catchments and communities forums.
- Mike Urquhart had a question for Emma regarding 2 projects for Collarenebri. Emma took this as a question on notice and will relay the information to Walgett Shire Council, Mike Urquhart and Councillor Smith when it is to hand.
- The MDA's position on buybacks. Region Chair is to circularise the email received from Emma today with a request any opinions from Region Councils be returned to him for collation and forwarding to HO.

Emma left the meeting at 12:43pm

6.2 Chairman's report

- Cr Campbell mentioned the following items from the Board Meeting 387
MOU with Landcare NSW

- AGM and National Conference in Toowoomba in October (commended attendance to those present)
 - Local Government Water Conference in Albury (early Sept). Emma presenting.
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7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Campbell

- Non-urban water metering policy and requirements for license holders
- A report on the [Namoi Unlimited Water for the Future Strategy](#)
- Notices of motion for the AGM must be in by 21st August to be included Cr Petty
- Developments (construction and general) affecting deliverability of water in the lower basin with questions regarding the construction of interceptions versus climate change.
- Whilst he agrees with the appointment of an Inspector General and its importance and justification it is giving the appearance of being top heavy. Also how much power is entailed and the expedience regarding some incidents.

Lou Gall

- With the development spoken of by Cr Petty what percentage of flows in the tributaries is affected? Dr Derham took this as a question on notice and will get back to us.

Cr Smith

- Had a question regarding the maintenance of weirs along the whole of the Murray Darling system. While there is little or no flow the maintenance should be completed. It would seem it is extremely difficult to actually contact anybody in this department. Dr Derham also took this as a question on notice and will also make representation to the appropriate NSW minister and reply to Walgett Shire Council in due course.

8. PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Dr Peta Derham – Summary of presentation to come.

9. NEXT MEETING

Will be held at the Gunnedah Shire Council Chambers at 8:30am on Thursday 7 November prior to the Namoi Unlimited (JO) meeting.

10. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1.25pm