



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Region 11 Meeting
11am, Tuesday 12 March, 2019
Gunnedah Shire Council, Gunnedah**

MINUTES – March 2019

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr John Campbell - Chair	Gunnedah Shire Council
Emma Bradbury#	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association
Mayor Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Greg Sauer	Tenterfield Shire Council
Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
John Clements#*	MDA Strategic Advisory Committee
Annabelle Guest#*	Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Sally Dickenson*#	Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin

* Non-member– attendance by invitation

Attendance by teleconference

1.2 Apologies

Col Murray	Tamworth City Council
Bruce Logan	Tamworth City Council
Andrew Johns	Gunnedah Shire Council
Michael Pearce	Uralla Shire Council
Cr Andrew Hope	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Andrew Hopkins	Uralla Shire Council
Cathy Redding	Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Don Forbes	Tenterfield Shire Council
Mayor Ian Woodcock	Walgett Shire Council
Cr Manuel Martinez	Walgett Shire Council

Action: That the apologies be accepted

Move G Sauer/P Petty

Carried

2. WELCOME – Meeting commenced at 11:40

Welcome by Mayor Jamie Chaffey

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES

- Motion:** That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Inc. held on Friday, November 9, 2018 as typed and circulated, be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.
- Action:** **Move J Chaffey/G Sauer** **Carried**
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5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Amendments to previous minutes:

- Annabelle Guest attending by teleconference
- Peter Petty not Pretty.

5.2 Item 7.2 from previous meeting. Cr Frances Young, who was an apology for the meeting, had indicated to Cr Campbell that she was interested in being Gwydir Shire Council's delegate to the Region Executive.

Action: That Cr Frances Young be elected to Region Executive
Move G Sauer/P Petty **Carried**

5.3 Presentation by Jamie Chaffey of Namoi Unlimited be dealt with as Item 8.2.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Chief Executive Officer

(Attachment 1)

- In discussion with CEO of MDBA renewed MOU with MDA and MDBA. Originally established Dec 2014. 5 year MOU. Been a shift in set of roles at MDBA over the past couple of years. First final draft is now ready to be presented to boards for comment. Looks at how to engage better and engaging local government better. Emma mentioned the Basin Community Leadership Program. Under the funding program, 15 eligible communities were identified for funding. MBA approached the department as to why the communities were very southern communities. Funding application (ask JC for more detail) was submitted on Saturday 9 March for consideration for \$500k.
- On Wednesday Emma will be attending a meeting with regulator for feedback
Any feedback regarding operations? Jamie advised not at this stage. Peter advised none that he had heard of in his Shire either.

- Thursday heading to Toowoomba and Dalby to address 10 regional mayors for SE Queensland. Possible representation from the northern region. Region 12 include 7 members of those 10 Emma will be meeting with.
- Connecting Catchments and communities forum
- Jamie asked a question regarding the application, with the federal election looming, will that affect the assessment of the application. Emma advised she did not think Caretaker Mode would affect the processing of the application and anticipates it will continue to be processed as usual.
- Task after strategic planning weekend was to obtain funding for a 4 year business case – more likely to be impacted by the federal election and caretaker mode.

6.2 Chairman's report

- Travelled to Strategic Planning workshop with Andrew Johns. Gave rundown on theme of the weekend including succession planning and acquiring new members.
- Invitation for region chairs to sit in on region 7's meeting. No attendance. Emma will mention at the next board meeting and encourage chairs to attend as guests at each other's meetings to understand other regional issues.

Action:	Move John Campbell/ Peter Petty	Carried
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7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1** Topics or guests speakers for future meetings email John Campbell with names and contact details. Jamie suggested John Clements who accepted. It was suggested he attend the Walgett meeting in August. It may be held in Lightning Ridge due to lack of accommodation in Walgett. Other suggestions for guest speakers included Bernie Martin, Philip Glyde, Jon Maree Baker, Zara Lewin. Frances suggested Zara who will send details to John.
- 7.2** National Conference – Registrations not open yet. Website should be live next week.
- 7.3** Jamie – The sale of water to the Mining Industry. Price the local mines have recently paid for water at a recent open Auction has local farmers angry as they cannot compete. Emma – there is a case to be made regarding the market fluctuation and the impact on the communities. Other side of the argument is should local farmers supplement their income by selling their water. Jamie suggested perhaps an internal debate regarding putting a cap on the rate. John Clements suggested a working

group to get these sorts of issues sorted out. Jamie suggested an agenda item to discuss further.

There is a disconnect between departments regarding the management of the water resource. Annabelle agreed.

Jamie – commented on the effect of the drought on the Gunnedah Region. 1% increase in job loss which relates back to the agriculture and construction industry. It is going further than the farm gate and is more wide spread.

Emma – What are councils doing to prepare for a community response to a continuing drought?

Jamie – The only thing that will help is drought breaking rain. Local council is restricted in what they can do. There are hardship policies in place. His understanding is that there will be a shift once rain comes, to assist farmers to get back on track.

Peter – Council meeting discussed at a recent meeting, for Region 11 to hold BROCC meeting in conjunction with MDA meetings. Emma will work with both John and Alex to map out meeting calendars to incorporate other regional meetings

Annabelle Guest and Sally Dickinson joined the meeting at 12.04pm

Action: Emma to add agenda item regarding Working Group to the next Board Meeting.

8. PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1** Annabelle Guest - Introduced Sally from Goondiwindi Office. Independent reviews into the Menindee Fish Kill. Emma asked whether the SA Government enquiry has resonated much in the Region 11 area. It was advised that the issue has not been widely discussed.
- 8.2** River Reach Newsletter – Annabelle to obtain all Region 11 Council email addresses for sending of newsletter with request for it to be forwarded to all councillors.
- 8.3** Namoi Unlimited Joint Organisation
Mayor Jamie Chaffey, who is the Chair of Namoi Unlimited, gave an address regarding the main project for 2019/2020 – Water for the future studies. Consultant is on board to do an audit and analysis for the 5 Shires and is currently underway. Once completed, the organization will be looking at programs that will take the 5 Councils over the next 3-4 years. These could possibly include upgrade utilities supplier, look at the amount of restricted/unrestricted ground water in the 5 areas, utilization and then growth. Hoping to get a list of high priorities from the study that will add value to different industries or impacts on different industries. The study will be completed late May/ early June. Emma will look into setting up meetings between MDA and Namoi Unlimited.

9. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th May 2019 in Tamworth (Tentative)

10. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1.05pm

