



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 11 Meeting
11am, Tuesday, September 11th, 2018
Gwydir Shire Council chambers, Bingara

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2018

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr John Campbell - Chair	Gunnedah Shire Council
Emma Bradbury#	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Catherine Egan	Gwydir Shire Council
Cr Don Forbes	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Bob Rogan	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Frances Young	Gwydir Shire Council
Peta Derham*	General Manager of Water Resource Plans and Policy, Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Annabelle Guest*	Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Kirsty Hopkins*	Murray-Darling Basin Authority

* Non-member– attendance by invitation
Attendance by teleconference

1.2 Apologies

Mayor John Coulton	Gwydir Shire Council
Max Eastcott	General Manager, Gwydir Shire Council
Vicki Grover	Secretariat, Gunnedah Shire Council
Andrew Johns	Director Planning and Environmental Services, Gunnedah Shire Council
Mayor Peter Petty	Tenterfield Shire Council

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.
D Forbes/F Young

Carried

2. WELCOME

Cr Egan extended a welcome to Bingara and Gwydir Shire Council to all meeting attendees.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES

As this was the inaugural meeting of Region 11, there were no minutes or business arising therefrom.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's report – Murray Darling Association 74th National Conference and AGM

Cr Campbell gave as his report the report he presented to Gunnedah Shire Council in relation to his attendance at the Leeton conference.

Motion: That the chairman's report be received.

F Young/D Forbes

Carried

5.2 CEO Report – Introduction to Murray Darling Association

Emma Bradbury provided a brief snapshot of the MDA, its goals and objectives. Emma encouraged input and participation in relation to Basin matter from member councils.

Reference was also made to a review of regional boundaries.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Productivity Commission *Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report – Region 11 response*

The MDA's draft response to the Productivity Commission report was read. The MDA will prepare a submission. Councils and joint organisations can submit their own responses prior to October 10th, and are also encouraged to provide feedback to the MDA to inform the national peak submission .

6.2 Schedule of meetings

It was decided to leave this in abeyance at this point. Meeting dates of the second Tuesday in March, June, September and November were suggested. Expressions of interest for venues will be called as required.

Attendees were encouraged to "specify the ask" of what should be raised at MDA meetings and what matters should be passed onto the executive and regions.

Action: An election to determine Regional Executive Members will occur at the next meeting, ensuring there are more attendees to be considered.

6.3 2020 Murray Darling Association National Conference – expressions of interest

Region 2 and 4 have expressed interest in hosting the 2020 National Conference. Any council that would like to host the 2021 National Conference should bring it to their councils' attention in the near future.

6.4 Strategic Development – Region 11 membership and engagement

Attendees outlined ways to enhance membership and engagement within the region. Suggestions raised were:

- Engaging with issues;
- Updates relating to MDA engagement on issues, evident by the resolution trackers from immediate and past Annual General Meetings;
- Review of regional boundaries;
- Advertising membership through Joint Organisations and Regional Organisation Committees, with the possibility of membership deals. This would need to be driven by the MDA Board; and

- Holding meetings via videoconference, which would save time and costs due to the size of the region.

Action: Mayor Chaffey to investigate which Joint Organisations cover Region 11 and provide details to regional management.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Naomi Unlimited Joint Organisation

Mayor Chaffey, who is the Chair of Naomi Unlimited, gave an address regarding the strategic direction the Joint Organisation has in place. The group's top priority is water and how it can be used more effectively to produce more goods, and also be value adding to these products.

7.2 Murray-Darling Basin Authority Regional Engagement Officer – Naomi/Gwydir Region

Annabelle Guest gave a brief history of herself and her position. She is keen to consult and engage with all councils in the region, which covers the area from Copeton Dam to Keepit Dam, and out to Walgett.

Annabelle will be the conduit between the community, councils and the MDBA. She will also be invited to attend all Region 11 meetings.

7.3 Murray-Darling Basin Authority Water Resource Plans and Basin Policy

Peta Derham outlined her position with the MDBA. There are 33 plans in the system at present, which have a completion deadline of June 30th, 2019.

The Northern Disallowance Motion is back in Parliament and is due for decision after September 15th. Peta offered to send copies of the agreement struck in May between the Government and Shadow Minister for Water and Environment, Tony Burke in relation to the Disallowance Motions.

Funding for projects are available thanks to not as many water buybacks occurring as planned. Details regarding the application process will be sent to all meeting attendees when they are available.

It was noted the MDA and MDBA have a very positive relationship, which is highly respected by the MDA. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two groups, which outlines common goals, is in place and due to be reviewed this year.

8. CLOSE