



Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Location:	Coorong District Council 95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend SA 5260
Time/date:	9.30am for 10am start, Friday 19 October 2018
Guest Speakers:	Kate Husband, Regional Engagement Officer, MDBA Emily Jenke, Basin Community Committee

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present:

Voting Members:

Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Cr Julie Barrie	Coorong District Council
Cr Clem Schubert	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Vern Leng	Coorong District Council
Keith Loeser	Private Member
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council
Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Frank Tuckwell	Alexandrina Council
Emma Bradbury	CEO, MDA (via telephone)

Guests:

Ian Mann	Private Member, Region 5
Grayson Saruwaka	Alexandrina Council
Vincent Cammell	CEO, Coorong District Council
Shen Mann	MDA-R6 Executive Officer
Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District Council

1.2 Apologies:

Peter Mettam	Department for Environment and Water
Kerri Muller	Kerri Muller NRM
Gloria Jones	RLCAG

2. WELCOME

2.1 Housekeeping: safety, toilets and catering.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

4. MINUTES

Resolution

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 August 2016 at Alexandrina Council, Goolwa be accepted as a true and correct summary of that meeting.

**Moved Cr Barrie – Seconded Cr Leng
CARRIED**

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Kate Husband – Regional Engagement Officer, MDBA

Kate gave an overview of her role at the MDBA, the governance arrangements applying to Basin Plan decision-making and some of the key projects and issues of relevance to MDA-R6.

The MDBA submissions to the Productivity Commission enquiry as referenced by Kate are provided below:

- https://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/228489/sub086-basin-plan.pdf
- https://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/232308/subdr136-basin-plan.pdf

The MDBA report on Return Flows is available here: <https://www.mdba.gov.au/node/5150>

ACTION: Distribute copy of Kate’s presentation to MDA-R6.

ACTION: Add MDBA report from Kate to future Region 6 agenda’s as a Standing Item. Kate to respond to questions taken on notice.

ACTION: Kate to provide future presentation to MDA-R6 on SA’s three supply/constraint projects.

5.2 Emily Jenke – Basin Community Committee

Emily spoke about her background as an irrigator, community engagement specialist and member/Chair of various government advisory boards including the Native Vegetation Council, River Murray Advisory Committee and SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board.

ACTION: Region 6 to send copy of Productivity Commission submissions to The Hon. David Speirs MP, Minister for Water, prior to next Ministerial Council meeting in December, referencing Region 6 concerns with respect to socio-economic neutrality test for 450GL.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Action List – Attachment A.

Resolution

That Region 6 write to the Hon David Speirs MP, Minister for Water, expressing concern about a lack of timely community engagement and communication with respect to the outcomes of the Coorong Summit and request that, moving forward, a greater level of priority is given to proactive and regular community engagement.

**Moved Cr Barrie - Seconded Frank Loeser
CARRIED**

Resolution

That Region 6 thank Shen Mann for her contribution to MDA-R6 during her 6 month tenure as Executive Officer

**Moved Heather Barclay - Seconded Cr Barrie
CARRIED**

6.2 Update – Future of the Barrages (Alexandrina)

A joint letter from Mayor Parkes of Alexandrina Council, Mayor Jaensch of Coorong District Council and Mayor Lewis from Rural City of Murray Bridge was sent to Minister Speirs on 3 August 2018. A follow-up email was sent to the Office of Minister Speirs on 4 October 2018 who advise that the response from the Department is currently with a Ministerial Adviser for review before being progressed to the Minister.

6. REPORTS

6.1 CEO's Report

Emma spoke about upcoming consultation opportunities with respect to the socio-economic neutrality test for environmental water recovery. Emma noted that water recovery has had different impacts in different communities, with some regions embracing the benefits of investment in efficiency upgrades and others being opposed to further on-farm water recovery. A consultation meeting will occur in Murray Bridge at 10am on 6 November. Further details available here: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/mdb/programs/basin-wide/mdbwi-program>.

Minister Speirs has requested a meeting with Emma and Cr Featherston to discuss climate adaptation for the CLLMM region and the future of the barrages as a result of Resolution 5.6 from the MDA AGM.

A copy of the MDA submissions to the Productivity Commission enquiry are available online at the links below. The MDA is largely supportive of the draft findings and recommendations made by the Productivity Commission:

- https://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/227521/sub052-basin-plan.pdf
- https://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/231765/subdr093-basin-plan.pdf

6.3 Chair's Report

Cr Featherston gave a verbal report. Written report provided – Attachment B.

6.4 Executive Officer Report

- Submitted content for MDA August e-newsletter
- Attended MDA National Conference – 29 to 31 August 2018
- Provided documents to Rebekha Sharkie's office re R6 advocacy with respect to future of the Barrages – September 2018
- Submitted content for MDA September e-newsletter
- Presented to Alexandrina Council on behalf of Region 6 – 2 October 2018
- Supported meeting of Region 6 Executive – 5 October 2018
- Assisted Region 5 with securing speaker for December 2018 meeting re management of CLLMM
- Wrote submission on draft Productivity Commission report – 10 October 2018
- Provided speaking notes for Vincent Cammell for PC Public Hearing – 15 October 2018

- Presented at CLLMM CAP on behalf of Region 6 – 18 October 2018

6.5 Media Comments

Note recent articles re upstream advocacy as to 450GL socio-economic neutrality test being planned for December 2018 meeting of Ministerial Council. MDA-R6 Executive to discuss whether any pro-active advocacy is needed from MDA-R6 and/or MDA Inc ahead of Ministerial Council.

<https://www.countrynews.com.au/2018/10/14/277124/farmers-take-water-fight-to-melbourne>
<https://www.countrynews.com.au/2018/10/16/277353/patience-runs-out>

Resolution

That the above reports be accepted.

**Moved: Keith Loeser - Seconded: Cr Leng
CARRIED**

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Outcomes of MDA National Conference 2018

A record of resolutions from the 2018 Annual General Meeting is available online, along with copies of action taken by the MDA in response to these resolutions. As they are received, responses from the various agencies will also be uploaded onto this page.

<http://www.mda.asn.au/major-events/2018-agm-resolutions.aspx>

Sli.do questions from National Conference are also available online. Responses from agencies will be posted here as they are received:

<http://www.mda.asn.au/74th-agm-presenter-questions.aspx>

7.2 Submission: Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission's draft report was released in late August 2018. The draft report was reviewed against the submission dated 27 April 2018 made by MDA-R6 on the earlier Issues Paper.

MDA-R6 Executive approved a submission on the draft report, noting that it would be subject to retrospective endorsement by the broader membership of MDA-R6 at this meeting.

Vincent Cammell appeared at the public hearing in Murray Bridge on 15 December 2018 on behalf of MDA-R6.

ACTION: Circulate to MDA-R6 link to Productivity Commission hearing transcript once available.

Resolution

That MDA-R6 note and endorse the submission dated 10 October 2018 made to the Productivity Commission in relation to the draft findings of the Murray Darling Basin Plan – Five Year Assessment Draft Report.

**Moved: Cr Barrie – Seconded: Keith Loeser
CARRIED**

7.3 Use of environmental water for drought relief

In recent months, there have been calls for water held by the Commonwealth Environmental

Water Holder (CEWH) to be made available to support farmers and irrigators experiencing dry conditions in Victoria and New South Wales.

Resolution:

That Region 6:

- express our support and empathy for farmers and communities throughout the Murray-Darling Basin currently being impacted by drought;
- note our continuing support for full and timely implementation of the Basin Plan which seeks to restore balance between water for the environment and water for consumptive use, including in times of drought; and
- record our opposition to legislative amendments which would alter the current framework applying to the trade or use of water allocations held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

**Moved: Keith Loeser – Seconded: Cr Leng
CARRIED**

7.4 MDA Region 6 AGM

The 2018 AGM of MDA-R6 would normally fall due at the next meeting scheduled for 21 December 2018. Given the forthcoming local government elections and proximity of the December meeting date to Christmas, it is suggested that the Region 6 AGM be postponed until February 2019.

Resolution

That the 2018 AGM of Murray Darling Association Region 6 be postponed until 15 February 2019 to accommodate local government elections in November 2018 and enable sufficient time for Member Councils to appoint Member Council Representatives.

**Moved: Cr Barrie – Seconded: Cr Schubert
CARRIED**

7.5 Any other business?

ACTION: Consider local irrigators who have participated in Basin Plan efficiency programs as guest speaker for future meeting of MDA-R6.

9. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Next Meeting: Friday 21 December 2018 at Murray Bridge

10. 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.

MDA Region 6 - Minutes Action List - as at 25 October 2018

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
April 2017 April 2018	9.4	<p>Lake Albert-Coorong Connector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write to DEWNR seeking confirmation regarding the Lake Albert connector to seek if it is still under consideration. - Speak with Faith Coleman - Determine position of current MP for McKillop, Nick McBride. 	Chair/EO	TBC	Will potentially be reconsidered for investment by new Liberal State Government to address plight of Coorong South Lagoon. EO to advocate for further investigations via State Government consultation process.	Waiting on outcomes of Coorong Summit/Goyder Report to be released.
006/15 Oct	5.4	<p>MDA Region 6 Executive Officer – 1 day per week for 12 months</p> <p>Jointly funded by Alexandrina, Coorong and Murray Bridge (\$7K each). Position advertised on 8 December 2017 and applications close 5 January 2018. Selection panel to include representation from each Council. At conclusion of 12 months, R6 will review the effectiveness of the position with a view to recommending its continuance and funding.</p>	Alexandrina	February 2019	Shen Mann of Alexandrina Council appointed in February 2018 and resigned September 2018. Tracey Strugnall appointed as at Oct 2018 until June 2019. Budget bids for 3-year funding cycle to be submitted to 19/20 budget bid cycle.	
Feb 2018	4.2	<p>Future of the Barrages</p> <p>Anne Liddell to provide regular updates on progress to each R6 Ordinary Meeting.</p>	Anne Liddell/EO	Ongoing	Letter sent to Minister 3 August 2018. No reply as yet. Emma Bradbury and Cr Featherston due to meeting with Minister Speirs on 4 Dec 2018 in response to MDA AGM Resolution 5.6.	Follow up email sent to Minister's office on 4 October.
Feb 2018	5.4	<p>Regional Secretariat Position Description / Task List</p> <p>Shen to work with Emma to develop standardised position description/task list for regional secretariats.</p>	EO	As time allows		
Feb 2018	6.1	<p>Priorities from Strategic Directions Report</p> <p>EO to prepare Engagement Strategy (Priority 3), Scoping Briefs for Priorities 2a, 2b and</p>	EO	Ongoing	Engagement Strategy presented at April 2018 meeting and branding	Recommendation= focus on providing information &



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

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Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
		2d and a response to MDBA socio-economic data (Priority 4a)			proposal at August 2018 meeting (Priority 3). MDBA Chief Economist invited to inter-regional meeting on 11 July 2018 (Priority 4a).	facilitating debate re water quality via State Government consultation on restoring health of Coorong.
Feb 2018	6.2	City of Victor Harbor Barry & Keith to jointly approach new CVH CEO with respect to membership of the MDA.	Chair/Keith Loeser	2018	R6 marketing collateral being developed to support recruitment drive.	
April 2018 Aug 2018	6.3 7.4	Engagement Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All MDA-R6 members to provide details to Shen of industry & community stakeholder groups to be approached for Organisational Membership of MDA-R6 - Region name and branding adopted August 2018: "Murray to Mouth: Working together to secure a freshwater future for the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong". - Web content, promotional flyer and media release to be developed. 	EO	Update in Dec 2018	EO to undertake recruitment drive in collaboration with Chair once new marketing material available.	
June 2018	5.4	Council Briefings EO to brief RCMB and Coorong post-LG election. Note: proposal for tri-council induction tour of barrages. Liaise with Anne Liddell at Alexandrina Council.	EO	August 2018	Alexandrina – briefing undertaken on 2 October Murray Bridge – briefing date?	
June 2018 Oct 2018	6.3	Ideas for guest speakers at future meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jarod Eaton - Professor Mike Young - Salinity Management - Goyder re alternative water sources for urban areas i.e. desal & recycled - Local irrigator who has participated in water recovery/efficiency upgrades 	EO	As appropriate	Review appropriate time/topic to invite speakers that aligns with Strategic Directions.	DEW invited to Dec 2018 meeting re Coorong Summit Outcomes.
June 2018	6.4	Coorong Summit EO to liaise with State Government re hosting a local consultation forum in collaboration	EO	Report back October 2018	Offer has been extended to DEW – who have indicated willingness to work together	DEW invited to Dec 2018 meeting re Coorong Summit



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MDA Region 6 - Minutes Action List - as at 25 October 2018

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
October 2018	6.1	with Coorong District Council once draft report has been released for public consultation. <u>Resolution</u> That Region 6 write to the Hon David Speirs MP, Minister for Water, expressing concern about a lack of timely community engagement and communication with respect to the outcomes of the Coorong Summit and request that, moving forward, a greater level of priority is given to proactive and regular community engagement.			to host local consultation events. Waiting on update re dates for consultation. Reports due for "imminent release" as at 4 October.	Outcomes.
August 2018	6.3	Future Inter-Regional Meetings Liaise with other SA Chairs re asking LGA to host future meetings – possibility two per year.	Cr Featherston	ASAP	MDA organising joint meeting of Regions 4,5 and 6 re Menindee Lakes to be held in Renmark in early December 2018.	
August 2018	7.6	Media Release re Region 6 Resolutions and/or outcomes of National Conference	EO	ASAP		
Oct 2018	5.1	Kate Husband, MDBA Regional Engagement Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute copy of Kate's presentation to MDA-R6. • Add MDBA report from Kate to future Region 6 agenda's as a Standing Item. Kate to respond to questions taken on notice. • Kate to provide future presentation to MDA-R6 on SA's three supply/constraint projects. 	EO	December 2018		
Oct 2018	5.2	450GL, Socio-Economic Neutrality Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 6 to send copy of Productivity Commission submissions to The Hon. David Speirs MP, Minister for Water, prior to next Ministerial Council meeting in December, referencing Region 6 concerns with respect to socio-economic neutrality test for 450GL. • Develop Region 6 submission/participate in public hearing at Murray Bridge on 6 November 2018? 	EO	December 2018	Check date of MinCo. Provide copy of submission at meeting with Minister Speirs on 4 December 2018?	
Oct 2018	7.2	Productivity Commission Circulate transcript of Murray Bridge hearing to Region 6 once available.	EO	TBC	Complete – circulated with Oct 18 minutes	



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