



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Region 5 Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

**Monday 13 February 2022**

Commencing 10.04am at the Berri Barmera Council offices and via zoom Video Conferencing

**1. COMMENCEMENT** Cr Andrew Kassebaum opened the meeting at 10.04am

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

Present:

Mark Lamb	Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association (via zoom)
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri Barmera Council
Greg Burns	Inspector General Water Compliance
Cr Margaret Howie	Renmark Paringa Council (via zoom)
Tim Phillips	Communications and Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Association (via zoom)
Cr John Forrester	Mid Murray Council
Cr Victoria Hammond	Mid Murray Council (via zoom)

#### **Apologies:**

James John	Renmark Paringa Council
Phyllis Miller	

#### **3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Nil

#### **4. MINUTES**

##### **Moved Cr Andrew Kassebaum**

That the Minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 5 Ordinary Meeting held on 12 September 2022 are a true and accurate record of the meetings.

**Seconded Mark Lamb**

**CARRIED**

#### **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 DEPUTATIONS:**

Greg Burns, Inspector General Water compliance

Greg advised that he is relatively new, commenced in August 2021. He provided an outline of his role and the team. Greg is based at the Loxton Research Centre. (A copy of powerpoint presentation attached).

## 5. MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION REPORTS

For your information

### 5.1 CEO's report [online](#)

Mark provided an outline of the report and his role for new members including advising that the Murray–Darling Basin Plan was created to improve the health of the Basin, while continuing to support farming and other industries for the benefit of the Australian community. This has to be done in a sustainable way that can protect the health of the river for future generations.

Notes from the online report include:

- Advocacy - continuing to connect with related stakeholders both federally and state
- National Conference and AGM to be held in Murray Bridge
- Currently over 167 councils are part of the MBD, which comprises an expanse from Queensland to Murray mouth.
- Benefits to Councils and community including education, investment and sharing information.

### 5.2 MDA Board Meeting [Minutes](#)

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 MDA Region 5 Projects, Water Advocacy Statement, Regional Impact statement.

- MRLGA Carron McLeod to present at next meeting.
- Cr Andrew Kassebaum to circulate document around what LG can advocate for.

### 6.2 Murray River High flows discussions

- Cr John Forrester:
  - water levels were higher than expected;
  - people need to be patient.
- Cr Margaret Howie:
  - Renmark Paringa were well prepared;
  - Closure of Bookpurnong Road closure impacted all Riverland residents;
  - Renmark Paringa infrastructure team have undertaken an audit;
  - With the river opening to boats, crews had to work to get boat ramps open;
  - Believes SA SES were overzealous to residents who were well above 56 level;
  - State media sensationalized stories.
- Cr Victoria Hammond:
  - Logistical issues for dairy farmers logistics;
  - Community access including ferries/high fuel costs;
  - Resources for pumping out low level water (SES/DEW);
  - Residents showing resilience;
  - Recovery now – dealing with mould/rebuild and restoration
- Cr Andrew Kassebaum:
  - Main impact, Lake Bonney with the river 2.5m above lake;
  - Looking for locks to be reinstated in next couple of months.

### 6.3 Local Government post high river flow recovery.

## 7. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 1 May 2023 at 10.00am Loxton Waikerie Council and via zoom.

For your information, proposed future meeting dates / location.

- Tuesday 14 March 2023 (AGM) – District Council of Loxton Waikerie & via zoom N/A

**8. CLOSE 10:40am**

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Berri Barmera Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 5.*

DRAFT