



Murray Darling Association Inc.

admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

463 High Street
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

3rd Floor, 553 Kiewa Street
P.O. Box 359
Albury, NSW 2640

Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: 8 March 2024 Start Time: 10.30am

Location: Councillors Meeting Room, Albury City Council,

Address: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	AlburyCity Council - Chairman Region 1
Cr David Wortmann	Deputy Mayor, Towong Shire Council
Cr Aaron Nicholls	Federation Council (via MS Teams)
Brad Worrall	Office of Bill Tilley
Geoffrey Lucas	Lucas Mills
Mark Lamb	MDA - CEO
Tim Zeller	MDA - Comms & Engagement Officer (via MS Teams)
Bree Chambeyron	Inspector-General of Water Compliance
Brad Ferris	Deputy CEO, IP&E AlburyCity Council
Anthony Wilson (Guest Presenter)	Local Engagement Officer Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Wodonga

1.2 Apologies

Cr Bernard Gaffney	Deputy Mayor, Indigo Shire Council
Adrian Butler	Federation Council
Bill Tilley	MLA for Benambra
John Forsyth	Alpine Shire Council
Cr Geoffrey Dobson	Greater Shepparton Council

2. WELCOME

2.1 Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

Cr Thurley (Chair Region 1) welcomed members to the meeting, declared the meeting opened and noted the apologies.

Moved: Cr David Wortmann **Seconded:** Geoffrey Lucas

Motion: The apologies were noted.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

Moved: Geoffrey Lucas **Seconded:** Cr David Wortmann

Motion: That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 10 November 2023 be accepted. **CARRIED.**

4. GUEST PRESENTATION

Anthony Wilson from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) joined the meeting to provide an overview of the CEWO's local projects and community engagement activities.

The ensuing discussion covered topics such as cultural and recreational water allocations and water usage for environmental purposes.

Anthony advised the group that the CEWO can facilitate tours for Region 1 Councils to other areas of the Basin.

5. CURRENT ISSUES FROM REGION 1 COUNCILS

5.1 Albury

Cr Thurley advised that water quality (manganese levels) as a result of bushfires and floods has been an issue of late. Negotiations with MDBA took place to have oxygenated water released from the Hume Dam. There are no significant Murray Darling Basin Plan problems for Albury.

5.2 Federation

Cr Nicholls advised that there is a push for increases in recreational water in Corowa during peak summer tourist periods. Cr Nicholls will reach out to various members of the group to progress discussions on this matter.

6. CEO'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION

Mark Lamb took his report as read and noted the following highlights:

- MDA conducting a water forum in May in Mildura. Everyone encouraged to attend.
- National conference will be held in July this year due to NSW LG elections. The conference will be held in Tamworth with the CSIRO a notable sponsor.
- Continuing to drive membership across the Basin. Face to face meetings yielding stronger results than simple correspondence.
- MDA Board meeting held in Canberra last week which provided the opportunity for meetings with the Water Minister and Shadow Water Minister. Minutes from the Board meeting will be distributed to the group.

Mark also provided an update on advocacy efforts as well as a summary of recent discussions with the CSIRO.

The report was received and noted.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mr Lucas suggested that a future forum topic could be Snowy 3/Tumut 2.
- Cr Wortmann acknowledged Brad Ferris' input and attendance over the years and also thanked Albury City Council for ongoing support.

8. CLOSE

8.1 The meeting closed at 11.47am.

*The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks
AlburyCity for arranging and hosting this meeting of Region 1.*