



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Region 1 Ordinary Meeting

Date: 18 November 2022 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	Albury City Council -Chairman Region 1
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Mayor Indigo Shire Council
Geoff Lucas	Private
Cr Aaron Nichols	Federation Council
Cr David Wortmann	Towong Shire
Cr Adrian Butler	Federation Council (arrived 10.48 am)
Greg Whorlow	Albury City Council
Dave Costello	Albury City Council
Mark Lamb	MDA - CEO
Tim Phillips	MDA Engagement Officer (via MS Teams)
Yvonne Lingua	RAMJO

1.2 Apologies

Cr Julia Ham	Snowy Valleys Council
Hon Sussan Ley MP	Member for Farrer
Brad Ferris	Albury City Council
Andrew Lawson	Albury City Council

Moved: Cr David Wortmann

Seconded: Greg Whorlow

That the apologies be received and noted.

1.3 Declarations

Nil

2 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Thurley welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Cr Bernard Gaffney

Seconded: Cr David Wortmann

That the minutes from previous meeting held on 5 August 2022 be received and noted.

4. GUEST PRESENTATION

The Chair Cr Thurley introduced Bree Chambeyron Field Officer, Inspector-General of Water Compliance (Albury Office) to give an overview of her role. (Presentation attached)

Bree advised that Troy Grant is the Inspector General and went through the role and responsibilities of the Inspector General and his office in conjunction with the MDBA and CEWHO etc.

Bree then answered questions from the attendees re meter readings, erosion and sediment at the Barmah Choke and Water Resource Plans (WRPs).

The Chair asked if Bree would give an update on relevant matters to each MDA meeting going forward which Bree agreed to.

5. CURRENT ISSUES FROM REGION 1 COUNCILS

5.1 Indigo – Cr Bernard Gaffney

Recently met with Goulburn Murray Water re Sunday Creek – pipe water into Murray is not going to save as much water as previously advised Consultation with Stakeholders has been good but very poor with the community. A few planning issues. The Bangarang people are now involved in the consultation.
Buyback concern – losing more farming land.

5.2 Towong - Cr David Wortmann

Believes buybacks are not good policy
Barmah Choke – With the large amount of sediment, water levels will be higher and affect towns on the Murray River
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) - .Photographic evidence is so important to assist with claims so Councils must make sure that they take photos of all assets.

5.3 Federation – Cr Aaron Nichols

Very pleased to hear that the Bangarang people are involved with the Sunday Creek project. Attended the Region 2 MDA meeting held in Corowa and there was talk of a merger of Region 1 and Region 2 but no there was no outcome in this regard.

Federation – Adrian Butler

Flood recovery – The lack of evidence of pre existing condition of assets prior to flooding is holding up claims.
The Office of Local Government - \$1m for each Council - payments being held up.

5.4 Albury – Cr David Thurley

Has been made a member of the Productivity Commission Review and would be happy to hear of any issues that he can raise with the Review members.
Has signed up for the Connecting Country Rivers program – any issues let him know.
Would like to send a motion to the MDA Conference regarding the culling of feral animals to lessen the damage they do in National Parks.

5.5 Snowy Valleys Council –did not attend

6. CEO'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION

- Mark Lamb spoke on his report and can be read [CEO's Reports \(mda.asn.au\)](http://mda.asn.au).
- The MDA Conference will be held in Murray Bridge SA from 25-28 September. Hoping it will be well attended. The Gala dinner will be held on Wednesday night. Minister Plibersek has been invited together with other prominent people.
- Would encourage Region 1 to get their motions in for the AGM by the end of August.
- Registrations are open for the conference.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Thurley requested support for his motion "Request relevant action from Victoria, NSW and ACT to implement some form of control of feral animals in National Parks (not aerial culling)"

The committee support this motion – exact wording will be supplied when written.

Cr Gaffney noted that there has been good snow falls in Falls Creek.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting was closed 11.37 am. Next meeting 4 August 2023