



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Region 1 Annual General Meeting

Date: 22 November 2019, Start Time: 10.30am

Location: Federation Council, Corowa Civic Centre

Address: 100 Edward Street Corowa NSW 2645

## MINUTES

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council (Region 1 and National MDA Chair)
Brad Ferris	Albury City Council
Greg Whorlow	Albury City Council
Cr Pat Bourke	Federation Council Mayor
Cr Bronwyn Thomas	Federation Council
Adrian Butler	Federation Council General Manager
Cr Terry Weston	Greater Hume Shire Council
Cr Bernard Gaffney	Indigo Shire Council
Cr David Wortman	Towong Shire Council Mayor
<b>Guest:</b>	
Andrew Kelly	West Cororgan Private Irrigation District General Manager

#### 1.2 Apologies

Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council
Cr Smit	Snowy Valleys Shire Council

#### 1.3 Declaration of Interests

*There was no Declaration of Interests received by the Chairperson.*

### 2. WELCOME

#### 2.1 Cr Patrick Bourke – Mayor Federation Council

Cr Bourke welcomed members and guests to the meeting and to the Federation Council area and acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Bangerang people and paid his respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Cr Thurley as Chair declared the meeting opened and noted the apologies received.

**Moved:** Cr Thurley **Seconded:** Cr Bourke

**MOTION** That the apologies from Cr Quinn and Cr Smit be accepted.

CARRIED

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.1 Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2018 in Albury.

**Moved:** Cr Wortmann, **Seconded:** Cr Bourke.

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the Murray Darling Association Region 1 Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2018 in Albury be accepted.

CARRIED

### 4. CHAIRS REPORT

**Water for the Environment** - Recovery budget needs more money, goes until 2024.

**Buy Backs** - Talks from the Irrigators/Farming groups advise that the Government need to look at urban recover options, as until that is done, they won't get any support for any more farm buy backs.

**Water Sharing Plans** - Not one of the NSW water sharing plans are accredited, and they have to be complete by end December. Federal Minister does have step in powers to make the plans and accredit them if necessary.

**\$2 Billion Connections project** - Goulburn Murray water could be invited to come and address an MDA Region 1 meeting, to discuss the project and any plans/progress.

**Regulation** – At the National Murray Darling Association Annual Conference, Ramzi Jabbour Deputy Inspector-General and also Greg Barnes from NRAR, spoke on the number of water theft/tampering investigations underway. They need to restore trust in what is happening. Mick Keelty has been appointed as the Inspector General and is gaining respect.

**Moved:** Cr Thurley, **Seconded:** Cr Bourke.

**MOTION:** That the MDA Region 1 Chairs report be received and noted.

CARRIED

### 5. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

#### 5.1 Election of Chair

Cr Thurley was duly nominated and there being no other nominations, accepted the role as Chair.

#### 5.2 Election of Executive Members

Cr Gaffney nominated Cr Wortman to be appointed as an Executive member, Cr Wortman accepted and was duly appointed.

Cr Weston nominated Cr Gaffney to be appointed as an Executive member, Cr Gaffney accepted this and was duly appointed.

**Moved:** Cr Bourke **Seconded:** B Ferris

CARRIED

### 5.3 Schedule of Meetings

Schedule of meetings to be on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> August and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Meetings to be held in Albury City Council unless other Councils wish to host meetings.

**MOTION:** The meeting endorsed the proposed meeting schedule and venue for 2020.

**Moved:** Cr Thurley **Seconded:** Cr Gaffney

CARRIED

## 6. REPORT FROM CEO EMMA BRADBURY VIA VIDEO LINK

Busy month and continues to be, thoughts are with those impacted by fires and water allocations. The relentlessness of work takes a lot of management, and brings home the relevance of the water issues.

A few things externally:

- The meeting calendar showed the level of engagement that external stakeholders rely on the MDA for, is very high.
- The recent National MDA conference was considered to be the best conference delivered in Emma's time.
- Lots of progress and opportunities presented, but the MDA are also not shying away from the drought, and the challenges.
- A couple of projects that the MDA team are doing a lot of work on, is to recognize, that whilst re-establishing political goals, need to be mindful not to lose sight of operational projects. Emma is so pleased to say in the last year, they have done that, worked on their operational projects also.
- As an example, MDA has been funded to deliver a Basin-wide Community Leadership program.
- MDA are also looking to attract funding for micro-grid energy opportunities, for rural and regional energy opportunities. In the last few years, focus has been on what it is that constitutes water resources. Focus on the Basin plan, and water, but also look at the role of Local Government, to have the voice at State and Federal level. Also to define resources, such as water, land, energy and community.
- Legislation is imposed at the Federal level, and Local Government often has to scramble to catch up.
- Hoping to secure a significant funding package.

Internally –

- Tony Banks and Sara O Hara joined the MDA staff team and are wonderful resources.
- In the coming week, Emma is heading to Canberra, for meetings with the MDBA and CEWH, to get them better communication material. to assist people to better understand and form perception around Env. flows, high rivers. People are concerned that the env. outcomes are not meeting expectations, and there is a consideration that maybe there is not enough understanding of the make-up of the water in the river.
- Off to Sydney also for a native fish management strategy briefing, and to also meet with Minister Pavey, and John Campbell from region 11,
- MDA National 2019 Conference - Students on study, in understanding the Murray Darling Basin.
- Leadership program to employ one full time and another on a part time basis.

**Moved:** Cr Bourke **Seconded:** Brad Ferris.

**MOTION:** That the MDA Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury's report be received and noted.

CARRIED

## **7. REPORTS – STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATION FROM ANDREW KELLY, GENERAL MANAGER, WEST CORURGAN PRIVATE IRRIGATION DISTRICT.**

- Andrew presented a PowerPoint presentation, and took questions, and provoked some good discussion,
- Andrew presented an overview of the West Corurgan Scheme, see copy attached, and more broadly also discussed issues the scheme/members faced, with zero allocation for the past two years. Hopeful through the work of Justin Clancy State MP Member for Albury, that 3000 megs may be available for a summer stock and domestic channel run.
- Also attending when it is arranged, a meeting with Minister Pavey and staff and Member for Albury Justin Clancy, and Federation Council representatives at some stage in the near future.
- West Corurgan also have other potential longer-term projects that they are considering.

**Moved:** Cr Bourke **Seconded:** Cr D Thurley

**MOTION:** That Andrew Kelly be thanked for his presentation.

CARRIED

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Moved:** Cr Thurley **Seconded:** Cr Gaffney

**MOTION:** That the Chair circulate a draft list of issues relevant to Region and call upon members to add other items in preparation for a workshop to be held at the February meeting

CARRIED

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in the Robert Brown Room, AlburyCity Council on Friday 21 February 2020.

## **10. CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 12pm and the Chair thanked all attendees and Federation Council for hosting the meeting.