

MINUTES

Murray Darling Association Inc. Region 6 Ordinary Meeting

27 April 2017

Venue

Alexandrina Council
Community Chambers "Wal Yuntu Warrin"
Goolwa



Indigenous Acknowledgement

*"The Murray Darling Association acknowledges the traditional owners
of this land & the waters on which we meet"*

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present

Keith Loeser	Private Member
Ian Mann (OAM)	Private Member
Bill Bagley	Private Member
Vern Leng	Coorong District Council
Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council
Julie Barrie	Coorong District Council
Lesley Fischer	Guest
Mick Fischer	Guest
Shen Mann	Alexandrina Council
Danae Cates	Minutes – Alexandrina Council

1.2. Apologies: Adrian Sakko, Adrian Pederick, Simon Bradley, Cr Frank Tuckwell, Emma, Cr Michael Scott, Peter Smith OAM,

2. WELCOME

2.1. Welcome to Alexandrina Council

2.2. Housekeeping:

- Fire safety
- Toilets

2.3. Catering: Morning tea available, Lunch is being provided after the meeting

2.4. Conflict of interest

3. CONFIRMATION of MINUTES ~ Ordinary Meeting held 17th February 2017 (Appendix 'B')

Moved Bill Bagley, Seconded Keith Loeser 'That the minutes be accepted'
CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- **MINUTES ACTION LIST** (Appendix 'A')
- Circulation of other SA Region's minutes. Minutes are available on MDA Website.
 - o It was noted that Region 7 minutes on the website have not been updated since 2015.
- Discussions held regarding Coorong Connector.
 - o Parliament speeches from Adrian Pederick are available on his Facebook site.
 - o Discussion regarding the drops and rises in water levels and the effect this has on the system, particularly with salt levels.
 - o DEWNR have advised that they don't monitor the "monitors" anymore and they are being turned off.
 - o Correct management of Barrages is very important to maintaining a healthy system.
 - o MDA need to spend time to lobby the Government to fix up the barrages.
 - o Barry advised he is an apology for the next meeting, but suggests inviting Adrian Pederick, Shadow Minister for Environment to attend.
- Shen Mann (Alexandrina Council) presentation regarding Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Alexandrina Council's position regarding the barrages.
 - o Detailed regional climate change projections for the whole of Australia here: <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/>
 - o NCAARF Coast Adapt Tool including inundation maps here: <https://coastadapt.com.au/>
 - o Further information about the MDB Adaptation Plan here:
<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/projects/all-projects-map/adapting-to-climate-change>
 - o Further information about the Resilient Hills & Coasts Adaptation Plan here:
<http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/resilienthillscoasts>

Moved Keith Loeser, Seconded Julie Barry – *'That Alexandrina Council prepares a Council report template on the proposed actions regarding climate change adaptation for the Lower Murray below Lock 1; including the Lakes and Coorong; and in particular sea level rises and makes recommendation including the formation of a taskforce for the three levels of Government.'*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: Shen will have the report template completed by the end of May. Barry will then circulate the report template to Council's for tabling at their council meetings.

5. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE - Nil

6. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (Questions to the Executive not listed in the Agenda)

- **Bill Bagley** – Request for a definitive answer regarding private membership, when is it due, what are the costs etc.

Moved Bill Bagley, Seconded Keith Loeser - *'that invoices for memberships are sent out to private members and with a uniformed due date, prior to 30 June.'* **CARRIED**

- **Keith Loeser** – **Northern Basin Plan 'Buy Backs'** what happened?

Barry advised that each Council that had input can access this information. Alexandrina Council has put a paper forward – alternative view. Reports regarding the Basin Plan are available on

the Council website. All submissions are available on the MDBA website.
Alexandrina Council's Submission will be circulated to members with these minutes.

- **Clem Schubert – Desalination Plant**

Clem provided verbal report with information regarding water usage consumption and needs.

SA Water is currently doing modelling on behalf of DEWNR, to determine when the Desalination plant will be turned on. She further advised that the Draft River Murray Water Allocation Plan is currently with the Minister. The Plan has been with the Minister for 12 months, which has possibly been held up waiting on the SA Water modelling outcomes for the Desalination Plant.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

8. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1. Chairman's Report -

Barry verbally provided the Chairman's report – A copy of the Chairman's report will be circulated to members with the minutes.

Moved Keith Loeser, Seconded Bill Bagley, That the Chair follows up with the MDA Chief Executive Emma Bradbury regarding the National Conference date and venue and advise all members.

CARRIED

9.2. Upgrade Barrages: Lesley Fischer

Discussion covered under Business Arising.

9.3. Upgrade regional priorities as per Strategic Plan'

9.4. Separation of Coorong Lagoons

Moved Vern Leng, Seconded Keith Loeser 'That MDA Region 6 writes a letter to DEWNR seeking confirmation regarding the Lake Albert connector to seek if it is still under consideration & also invite CEO of DEWNR to attend the AGM in August 2017 as a guest speaker.' **CARRIED**

- Julie to draft the letter and send to Barry

9.5. Desalination Plant: DEWNR are doing the modelling

No feedback received to date.

- All motions put forward at Conference in Dubbo, not receiving updates –

Moved Keith Loeser, Seconded Julie Barrie 'That MDA Region 6 requests an action list on all motions passed at the Dubbo conference.' **CARRIED**

9.6. Secretariat: Where are we with this?

Alexandrina Council is waiting for the new CEO to start prior to making a decision. A Report will go to a future Council meeting.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1. Vern advised that the MDBA has recently published a book regarding history of the River. "Sharing the Water – One Hundred Years of River Murray Politics". – *Author Chris Guest*. Available through MDBA.

10.2. European Carp

Lesley advised that this is a major issue we need to seriously look at.

NRM is taking responsibility for organising information being sent out to the community. MDA to liaise with NRM to request they keep us in the loop.

Action: Add to Agenda for joint meeting with Region 6 & Region 5.

Action: Barry to discuss with relevant General Manager Alexandrina Council regarding a regular report to come to the MDA Region 6 providing an update.

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1. **Date: Friday 16th June 2017**

Note: Barry will be an apology

11.2. **Venue: Coorong District Council Chambers, Tailem Bend**

12. CLOSE 11:49am

'APPENDIX A'

Minutes Action List ~ Region 6 MDA

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
023/16 Dec	6	Ascertain membership cost for Southern Mallee Council	Chair/Emma	Feb 2017	EB has been asked to deal with this 28/4/17 - No further information received from EB yet.	
022/16 Dec	9.2	MDA/LGA Group Meetings to bring SA MDA Regions together Meeting to be organised between Chair, Coorong & Alexandrina Councils	Chair Neville J/ Barry F	June 2017 LGA House	Potential meeting date May 2017 / June 2017	
		Consider next Agenda for SA Regional Meeting	Barry/Neville		Items for MDA AGM	
		Consider Joint Meeting between Region 5 & Region 6, include guest speakers etc. Venue: Mannum or Swan Reach or Morgan – no further than Loxton. Aim to hold meeting in May 2017 – Barry to follow up	Barry			
021/16 Dec	9.3	Check final wording for AGM Motion 5.7 - Recommendations of Senate Select Committee on MDB Plan	Secretary	April 2017	The Murray Darling Association calls on the government to make public the details of all and any action taken, or proposed to be taken regarding the implementation of the recommendations.	
020/16 Dec	9.4	Members to return to the table with ideas on actions needed to implement Motions for AGM MOTION: Lake Albert Connector – Priority for R6	ALL		April 2017	
019/16 Dec	9.5	Peter Mettens from DEWNR to be invited as guest speaker at combined Regional meeting to speak on the Variable Lakes Project; including Modelling. SE Flow Restoration; Lake Albert Connector.			Andrew Beale may be a better choice. NJ to include MDA in next organised meeting at CDC. Invite to Joint	



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

'APPENDIX A'

Minutes Action List ~ Region 6 MDA

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
					Region Meeting. Vern has spoken to Jarrod Eaton, Meeting held – Vern will distribute the minutes. Point of interest, the Coorong connector has been axed. DEWNR advising that the matter is still on their agenda.	
018/16 Dec	9.6	Other Motions from AGM to be placed in priority	ALL			
017/16 Dec	9.7	Ordinary Meetings of Region 6 for 2016 to be held on 3 rd Friday, every second month	Chair			
016/16 August	9.3	Memorial at Goolwa Barrage (Frank Tuckwell) <i>Frank sought a letter of support from Murray Darling Association Region 6 to support a project for the establishment of a formal memorial at Goolwa Barrage in recognition of the 6 men who lost their lives during the construction of the barrages.</i>			This is to memorialise the 6 men who died building the barrages	
012/16 July	3.4	That the National Board have, as part of the Action Plan, develop a Policy on Good Governance	Chair			
008/16	8.2	<i>That Region 6 MDA write to all SA Politicians stating that we support the move to extend the criteria for eligibility for financial assistance to the southern inland fisheries under exceptional circumstances as a consequence of damage done by Long Nosed Fur Seals</i>	Chair/Secretary	August 2016		
002/16 Feb	6.3	Financial Statement from MDA : Barry to continue to pursue this	Chair	June 2016		
014/15 Dec	9.6	Eastern Mount Lofty Water Plan – B.Featherston Levy to be charged for catchment	Barry		Pertinent website details for members	



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'APPENDIX A'

Minutes Action List ~ Region 6 MDA

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
013/15 Dec	9.8	SE Flow Management Project – R6 Project of Interest - V.Leng Intended Diversion project of the SE Drainage system to be added to MDA Website as	Vern		Pending Web master management	
012/15 Dec	9.9	Lake Albert / Coorong Connector Scoping Study – R6 Project of Interest - L. Fischer To be added to MDA Website – As a R6 Project of Interest	Leslie		Pending Web master management	
008/15 Oct	5.6.3	Register of Members - Vern	E.Bradbury	ASAP	Emma to keep R6 Abreast of memberships	
		2. It is suggested that R6 Executive make it a priority to sort out and Create a new and accurate Membership Database of its current Financial Members that records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbered Membership Card (proof of ID & Voting Right) • Membership Type per Clause 5 of the Constitution (Council / Org Rep, Private etc.) • Full Contact Details including Postal & E-mail • Phone/s • Meeting Attendances 	Executives	Continual	CEO in favour being progressed to National DB R6 Executive reviewed proposed spreadsheet / data collection Jan 21st	
006/15 Oct	5.4	Executive Officer - Paid Part Time work 20 hrs/wk – Alexandrina Council	Vice-Chair	February	Send copy of CDC's letter to Barry	
		1a. R6 write to its Member Councils requesting their contribution to a total of \$20k for the engagement of a part-time Executive Officer to work equivalent of 1 day per week for a trial period of 12 months to be hosted by Alexandrina Council either as an employee or via independent contract.				
		1b. R6 Recommend Member Councils contribute the following: Alexandrina\$5k Southern Mallee\$2.5k Coorong.....\$5k Tatiara\$2.5k Murray Bridge\$5k				
		3. If Member Councils agree to fund engagement of Executive Officer, R6 authorise Alexandrina Council to commence recruitment / engagement process	Alexandrina Council			
		4. The Executive Officer is engaged for a period of 12 months after which the R6 will review the effectiveness of the position with the view of recommending its continuance and funding	Executive Committee			
		5. Should the Member Councils not agree to fund the engagement of a paid Executive				



* Denotes Item Completed & will be removed next meeting

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Minutes Action List ~ Region 6 MDA

Minute	Item	Details	Responsible Person	Target Completion Date	Notes	Review
		Officer then R6 recommend that Coorong DC provide ongoing in-kind administration support to the R6 Secretary, Cr Julie Barrie abrogating the need for Alexandrina Council's present obligation as Board Member Council	T.B.D.			
002/15 Oct	4.1	Facebook Site FB site has been developed	Barry Executive	ASAP	V.Leng to be admin for R6. BF to raise at next board meeting	
27 April 2017	9.1	Chairman's Report - National Conference Chair to follow up with MDA CE, Emma Bradbury regarding the National Conference date and venue and advise all members	Barry Executive	ASAP		
27 April 2017	9.4	Separation of Coorong Lagoons That MDA Region 6 writes a letter to DEWNR seeking confirmation regarding the Lake Albert Connector to seek if it is still under consideration and also invite the CEO of DEWNR to attend the AGM in August 2017 as a guest speaker. Julie to draft the letter and provide to Barry.	Secretary & Barry	ASAP		



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

April 2017

National Conference 2017: OUR PLAN – OUR FUTURE

The theme statement “Our Plan – Our Future” is future focused and supports Basin wide inclusion and ownership. As the MDA’s conference Our also refers to local government: ie: “Local government’s Plan – local government’s future”, thus calling on local government to plan for and take ownership of our future under the plan; and supporting the MDA’s current advocacy priorities for the year ahead. It is also a theme that will be broad enough to allow for an almost limitless array of forward looking presentations and engagements at the event.

Local Government in the name Strategy

The MDA Annual Conference was a large success for Region 6 leading the way – I believe we have done enough internal gazing for the time being. However there is an idea that has been put the executive that we will be asked to consider.

MDA Business identification - In 2016 the MDA adopted a Constitution and a Strategic Plan, both of which firmly articulated its commitment to the primacy of local government as our core constituency, and our key purpose being to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources .

It is recommended by staff that the board endorse a process of consultation of not less than 18 months with our membership aimed at considering a change the name of the association from Murray Darling Association to Murray-Darling LGA.

The name Murray Darling Association carries with it great history and pride, but also some reputational ambiguity, and legacy issues.

The name Murray-Darling LGA

- a) is infinitely respectful of the name of the Murray Darling Association, carrying forward a proud tradition and bringing with it all three words;
- b) would bring the associations naming protocol into greater alignment with state and federal LGA’s, providing a greater emphasis on our role as the representative of local government as the third level of government in Australia;
- c) would elevate the association’s status consistent with other LGA’s of geographical context – ie: state and national LGAs;
- d) would provide a point of distinction from the MDBA’s acronym. MDA/MDBA confuses many;
- e) would provide better alignment with the widely accepted and more inclusive hyphenated place reference Murray-Darling, in refereeing to the Murray-Darling Basin;
- f) Would be timely and consistent with the commencement of the MDA’s ‘new era’ following the adoption of the new constitution, and the strong and clear direction of the organization.

Any official change of name would require an amendment of the Constitution, which under section 38 requires special resolution of delegates at an AGM, and needs to be passed by 2/3 majority. This may be presented to the 2018 AGM to provide adequate time for consultation with our members and stakeholders.

I am opposed to the move – however seek your input.

New Board Members

The board endorse the following appointments to the board

Mayor Darriea Turley Broken Hill City Council Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter Renmark Paringa Council Region 5
Cr David Shetliffe Walkerville Town Council Region 7
Mayor Denis Clark Northern Areas Council Region 8
Mayor Richard Marsh Balonne Shire Council Region 12
Peter George M&S Accounting Treasurer

Social and Economic Impacts Assessment Framework – pursuit of funding

The President and CEO continue to lobby for funding for this project.

These include:

- Meetings in Canberra pitching this strongly to the Director of Water Division, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in Canberra on 7th March.
- Presentation and strong sell directly to all Ministers and advisers at Ministerial Council, Mildura.
- Letter of request sent to all Ministers
- Direct engagement with all ministers and advisers as follow up.
- No one has said no – but no firm commitments yet.
- Meeting with Ben Bruce of Minister Hunter's Office of the Group Executive Director Water
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources South Australian Government

Status of Water Shares

The 2015-2016 audited financial statements of Murray Darling Association Inc provided the following information:

Financial Assets Non-Current Investments

High Security Water Shares \$166,600

Murray Darling Association Incorporated has the legal status that its name implies. It completes an annual return each year to NSW Fair Trading. The Association was registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as the 'charity' – Murray Darling Foundation is recognised as a trading name.

For some years, Murray Darling Association (MDA) and Murray Darling Foundation (MDF) (previously Murray Darling Association Environmental Foundation (MDEF) prepared separate financial statements. Information from the time-series of reports is as follows:

In 2007, the Foundation established a Water Bank to invest in water for environmental purposes. A small parcel of high security water was purchased for use in the long-term and would be added to over time. The Foundation Committee will deploy the water for works that benefit Murray-Darling Basin councils, environments and their communities. The program is being supported by a range of business and community groups.

2006-2007

Neither body reports any holding of water shares.

2007-2008

MDA – no water shares held

MDEF – 4.5ML water allocation, valued at \$11,346.

2008-2009 No information available

2009-2010 No information available

2010-2011 No information available

2011-2012 MDA - no water shares held

MDF – MDEF Water Bank \$45,156.40

2012-2013

MDF – High Security Water Shares at Cost \$98,113 - 53.5mgls (2012 – 37.9mgls)

2013-2014

MDA – no water shares held

MDF – High Security Water Shares at Cost \$104,927 - 57.5mgls (2013: 53.5mgls)

2014-2015

MDA – High Security Water Shares at Valuation \$144,050 - 57.5ML (2014: 57.5ML)

MDF – no financial statements

A further report will be prepared by the Treasurer and CEO with recommendations for the Board.

The question to be asked, is how liquid should the asset be?

Resource Kit

Our CEO has produced a Board and Chairs Resource Kit which will be available to use to promote or activities. It is a generic document that can be easily transformed into a regional specific promotional tool. It is currently with Board members for comment.

Barry Featherston, Region 6 President

December 2016