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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Local government stands together - Basin wide

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A three-day meeting of local government leaders from across the Murray Darling Basin last week saw an historic demonstration of unity and commitment to ensuring local government is directly involved in the Basin Plan decisions that impact our local communities.

The event, organised by the Murray Darling Association (MDA) Australia's peak body for local government in the Murray-Darling Basin saw Mayors, councillors and senior executives of councils from across the Basin.

For the first time in the 75-year history of the MDA, all 12 regions were represented, participating in the development of its strategic plan. In all over 50 delegates representing 28 councils from across the Basin attended the event, open to the regional chairs and committees of the MDA.

The annual MDA strategic planning workshop is now in its 5th year and is an important event on the Murray-Darling Basin local government planning calendar.

"Record attendance shows that local government is committed to working together, and with state and federal governments now more than ever before get the best for our local communities." CEO Emma Bradbury said. "Councils have again affirmed their support for the Basin Plan, recognising also that while the Plan is not perfect, it will unity and leadership to ensure a healthy, viable Murray-Darling Basin for this and future generations."

Councils discussed a range of issues, highlighting the importance of state and federal governments and agencies engaging better with communities through their local representatives; the imperatives of having local government involved in the assessment and delivery of SDL projects; and the need for better resourcing.

National President Cr David Thurley concluded "The robust discussions and willingness to hear and to learn once again highlights the strength of local government dealing with complex issues, and emphasises the need for local government to be involved from the outset."

The Murray Darling Association's regional chairs are:

Region 1	Albury City Council	Cr David Thurley	0419 510 274
Region 2	Moira Shire Council	Cr Peter Mansfield	0428 574 433
Region 3	Vacant		
Region 4	Wentworth Shire Council	Cr Jane MacAllister	0427 118 396
Region 5	Renmark Paringa Council	Cr Peter Hunter	0447 177 341
Region 6	Election Pending		
Region 7	City of Mitcham	Cr Andrew Tilley	0411 158 882
Region 8	Northern Areas Council	Mayor Denis Clark	0408 148 725
Region 9	Leeton Shire Council	Mayor Paul Maytom	0447 293 829
Region 10	Narromine Shire Council	Mayor Craig Davies	0429 887 707
Region 11	Gunnedah Shire Council	Cr John Campbell	0408 421 065
Region 12	Balonne Shire Council	Mayor Richard Marsh	0409 692 299

ENDS

*For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*