



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

Level 1, 250 Anstruther St
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

MEDIA RELEASE

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MDA elects new Chair for Murrumbidgee Region

Griffith City Councillor and 2018 Farmer of the Year Glen Andreazza is the new Chair of Region 9 of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), the peak body for councils in the Murray-Darling Basin. The change occurred at the annual general meeting of the Murrumbidgee Region in Leeton, on Wiradjeri Country.

Cr Andreazza's election marks a strong and stable transition of the leadership for the local government in Region 9, with the pending retirement from local government of long serving Chair and Mayor of Leeton Shire Council, Paul Maytom, at the upcoming NSW local government elections.

Mayor Maytom has been a member of the MDA for over 25 years and Chair of the Murrumbidgee Region for more than a decade.

Paul's considered wisdom and passion for water and community has brought balance and reason to the often tempestuous journey of water reform in the wake of the Basin Plan. His leadership, quiet counsel and formidable commitment to the MDA has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to many. Mayor Maytom will remain on the executive committee as Immediate Past Chair.

"After more that quarter of a century working with the Murray Darling Association to represent our communities, I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made. I step down from this position knowing that our organisation has never been in a stronger position or had greater connections. I wish Cr Andreazza all the best as he continues this important work."

Cr Andreazza's election to the Chair signals a new era for the region.

Griffith City Council has a strong tradition of ensuring the voice of local government is heard and understood. It's a council which is well-versed in supporting its community to thrive in the face of changing water availability, climate and technologies.

There is no better example of this than Riverina grain farmers Julie and Glen Andreazza. Their award-winning farming enterprise has been commended for looking after the environment, its focus on education, communication and succession planning to ensure the business and the region remains sustainable – all values and attributes that align closely with the objectives of the MDA.

"I am looking forward to working with Paul and the committee here locally, and with all of the Regions of the MDA – from one end of the Basin to the other," Cr Andreazza.

“We have come a long way in this region in recent years, but there is more hard work ahead. We all have to do more with less, and we have seen that having communities working one against the other doesn’t work. We are at our best when we work together and learn from each other.”

Glen will be supported by the region 9 executive committee of

Paul Maytom	Immediate Past Chair
Bede Spannagle	Riverina Water County Council
Jackie Kruger	Leeton General Manager
Cr Dino Zappacosta	Griffith City Council

Cr David Thurley OAM, National President of the MDA said that while there is some sadness in losing such long-serving experience as Paul Maytom from the board, he looks forward to working with Cr Andreazza.

“Glen has terrific experience, and I am looking forward to his valuable contribution for the benefit of local and Basin communities.”

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.*