

MDA Delegate's Report for tabling at council

March 2021



The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin. The following delegate's report provides a detailed report for tabling at council, including a summary of MDA Board Meeting 406, CEO's report, region meetings and the latest edition of the Basin Bulletin.



Registrations for 2021 National Conference now open!

Themed **Connectivity: Connecting Councils and Catchments**, the MDA's 2021 National Conference & AGM will be held on 16 - 19 May 2021 in Wentworth. This unmissable hybrid event is an opportunity to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future of connected councils and catchments.

This year's conference includes a unique **study tour** to the **Menindee lakes** on **Monday 17 May**. The Menindee lakes are an integral point of the system linking the Barwon Darling, Northern Basin and Southern Connected Basin.

Join us at the MDA's 77th National Conference as we tour this complex part of the system to better understand its role in achieving connectivity and sustainability for Basin communities and systems.

REGISTER TODAY: www.mda.asn.au

1. MDA Board Meeting 406

The Murray Darling Association held its Ordinary Meeting of the Board Meeting 406 on Monday 22 February 2021. The minutes are now available [here](#).

Key motions include:

Motion 6.1 Strategic and Operational Priorities

MOTION: That the board:

- a) Note the following strategic priorities and operational objectives for 2021:
 - i. Align strategy and objectives
 - ii. Work with LGA/ROC/Jos to develop consistent assessments, case studies and experience to inform MDA regional and national positions of advocacy
 - iii. The MDA support the LGA/ROC/JOs by raising the profile of local government and the peaks with the Commonwealth and supporting advocacy to the Commonwealth.
 - iv. Create regional efficiencies and Basin-scale projects, capability, and positions.
- b) Refer this item to the next meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group for awareness and noting.

Motion 6.2 Board Meeting Schedule 2021

The Board has resolved to trial a new meeting schedule with the Board to alternate monthly meetings between a Committee of Regional Chairs meeting and a Board meeting commencing in March. Refer to item 6.2 of the February 2021 Board minutes for further information.

2. CEO's Report

With over 167 councils in the MDB, the ongoing partnership between councils and the Murray Darling Association elevates local and regional issues and priorities to the state and federal level providing national recognition and informing policy.

Membership to the MDA delivers social, economic, and environmental benefits to each community by creating partnerships, participating in events, and accessing networks and services that align with and support all Community plans, in the areas of community, environment, economy and council.

The Murray Darling Association has been successful in shifting policies to better reflect the needs of Basin communities, and we are continuing to grow our reach and impact as portrayed in our [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

The relationship between the MDA and our member Councils contributes strongly to the development of the local government sector as a whole and our collective role in ensuring a vibrant, sustainable future for the Murray-Darling Basin.

We enjoy and look forward to continuing our work with member and interested councils into the future.

3. Region Meetings

Region meetings are an important platform for Basin communities to collaborate and work together within and across their regions. The following is a list of recent and upcoming region meetings:

Region	Meeting Type	Date	Minutes
Region 1	Ordinary Meeting	4 February 2021	Available here
Region 6	Ordinary Meeting	5 February 2021	Available soon
Region 11	Ordinary Meeting	12 February 2021	Available soon
Region 9	Ordinary Meeting	17 February 2021	Available soon
Region 2	Ordinary Meeting	18 February 2021	Available soon
Region 7	Ordinary Meeting	18 February 2021	Available soon
Region 4	Ordinary Meeting	2 March 2021	Available soon
Region 1	Ordinary Meeting	12 March 2021	Available soon

4. Basin Bulletin Issue 43 – February 2021 Newsletter

Basin Bulletin Issue 43 can be accessed [here](#). To receive the next edition of the Basin Bulletin, please register on the MDA website (www.mda.asn.au) or [email](#) MDA Comms and Engagement Officer Jess to request to be added to the distribution list.