



# Board Meeting 413 MINUTES

**31 January 2022**

Murray Darling Association Incorporated  
ABN 64 636 490 493

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## Meeting Commencement Time

9:30am

## Zoom Meeting Log in Details

[ZOOM LINK](#) (Meeting ID 867 8794 9686, log in details are also included the diary appointment)

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

Murray Darling Association acknowledges the traditional owners & custodians of country and pay our respects to the people, cultures, and elders past, present and emerging.

## 2. Attendance

### 2.1 Present

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Region 2
Vacant		Region 3
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Vacant		Region 8
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO

### 2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11

#### MOTION

*(Cr C Davies / Cr P Raison)*

**That the apologies be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

### 2.3 Declarations

Nil.

## 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Refer to - Attachment 3

**MOTION**

*(Cr G Dobson / Cr C Davies)*

That the minutes of [MDA Board Meeting 412](#) held on 26 November 2021 be accepted as an accurate record. **CARRIED**

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair provided a verbal report noting the current unusually high level of water in the Hume Dam for this time of year following recent storms and rain.

The Chair noted their recent re-election to the AlburyCity Council.

~~ CR A Tilley arrived 9:36am, CR A Tilley departed 9:39am ~~

**MOTION**

*(Cr P Raison / Cr M Rebbeck)*

That the Chair's report be noted. **CARRIED**

### 4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO provided his report for noting.

~~ CR A Tilley arrived 10:02am ~~

The CEO provided an update on the MDA Head Office transition from Echuca to Albury, commending T Phillips on his work in organising the transition and the removal and storage of office furniture and items.

The CEO indicated that the new office space will be situated within the RAMJO offices at the AlburyCity Council building.

M Rebbeck questioned whether basing the MDA Head Office within the RAMJO offices would introduce a conflict of interest with the MRLGA. M Rebbeck noted that there may be some concern regarding the MDA appearing unaffiliated to businesses and organisations as it may affect the SA Membership base.

- M Lamb indicated that the location in the RAMJO offices is a temporary base to work from, and that the AlburyCity Council office spaces are currently under renovation.
- C Davies noted that RAMJO had always operated in a conservative manner towards water management, indicating that they are a good organisation to have close at hand.
- M Lamb indicated that he would look forward to further discussing the MDA Head Office with all Board Members.

The CEO noted that an important issue in previous Board Meetings was the need for recurrent funding for the MDA.

- C Davies referenced a recent meeting he attended with the *Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party*, noting that discussions indicated that the MDA should approach the MDBA for recurrent funding.
- D Thurley indicated that the MDA had previously approached the MDBA for recurrent funding for the research and work done that the MDBA had sourced. D Thurley noted the resignation of the former MDBA CEO could serve as an opportunity to revisit the topic of recurrent funding.

The CEO addressed the continued rollout and conclusion of the Basin Communities Leadership Program in March 2022, noting that dates and venues are in the process of being finalised.

- M Rebbeck noted that the Alexandrina Council had been willing to host the Lower Lakes Workshop at their Goolwa offices previously. M Lamb confirmed that the MDA still intended to take the Alexandrina Council up on the offered venue.

**Refer to Attachment 4.2**

**MOTION**

*(Cr P Raison / Cr M Rebbeck)*

**That the CEO's report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

### **4.3 Finance Reports**

Reports are provided for December 2021.

**Refer to Attachment 4.3**

**MOTION**

*(Cr P Raison / Cr M Rebbeck)*

**That the Finance Reports be noted.**

**CARRIED**

## 5. Correspondence

### 5.1 Incoming

#### Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
6/12/21	Hon David Basham MP	AGM 5.3 – Carp Mitigation
6/12/21	Hon Melissa Horne MP	AGM 5.3 – Carp Mitigation
7/12/21	Frank Zaknich, AlburyCity CEO	Support for Murray Darling Association 78 <sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference 2022 application to NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund –Attraction of an Existing Business Event
20/12/21	Gerard Van Emmerik, Manager Community and Economic Development	Support for Murray Darling Association 78th Annual National Conference 2022 application to NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund –Attraction of an Existing Business Event

### 5.2 Outgoing

#### Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
29/11/21	The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP	Seeking support in retaining Minister Pavey in her current portfolio as Minister for Water, Property and Housing

#### MOTION

*(Cr C Davies / Cr G Dobson)*

That the correspondence be received and noted.

## 6. Business Arising

### 6.1 Flying Minute – 7/12/21

D Thurley noted that, following his re-election, there is no further need for the Flying Minute -7/12/21.

### 6.2 Board Resolution Register

Board to review the motions and actions completed.

#### Refer to Attachment 5.1

#### MOTION

*(Cr P Raison / Cr C Davies)*

That the report be noted.

## 7. General Business

### 7.1 Notice of appointment of public officer and Notice of change of association address

The Chair noted that the process of appointing a public officer and change of association address is well underway.

### 7.2 MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program

The CEO noted the challenge of how to leverage the program, raised the question of how to take the Leadership Program forward and build upon the BCLP.

### 7.3 Membership and Engagement

The CEO noted that he and T Phillips had been compiling lists of member/non-member councils in the Murray-Darling Basin and had begun a call around and contact initiative to engage with the non-member councils.

- D Thurley indicated that he would speak with M Lamb regarding engaging non-member councils in Region 1.
- C Davies noted an opportunity for M Lamb to address the NSW Country Mayors organisation, indicating that they will send additional details regarding the organisation.

**ACTION:**

**Cr Craig Davies to supply the CEO with details regarding the NSW Country Mayors Organisation.**

- G Dobson noted approaching the Campaspe Shire Council, indicating that the Campaspe Shire Council, Gannawarra Shire Council, Loddon Shire, Mildura Rural City Council, Moira Shire, and Swan Hill Rural City Council are united under the Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC). G Dobson noted, while there is a hesitancy to cooperate with the MDA by the MRGC members, that their meeting with the Campaspe Shire Council has opened dialogue with the organisation, with the intent to attend a council briefing session with members of the MRGC. G Dobson indicated that Region 2 needs more members, noting an opportunity for a joint approach with M Lamb.
- S O'Toole noted an opportunity for M Lamb to attend a meeting of the Darling Downs Mayors.

**ACTION:**

**Cr Samantha O'Toole to supply the CEO with details regarding the Meeting of the Darling Downs Mayors.**

### 7.4 Reports for Delegates

T Phillips supplied the Delegate's Report for noting.

## **Region 1**

- D Thurley noted the upcoming Region 1 AGM on 4 March.

## **Region 2**

- G Dobson indicated that they had a meeting with Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources and Water.
- G Dobson noted the passing of long time MDA champion and former Edward River Council Mayor Norm Brennan, asked that a note of condolence to be included on the Agenda for the upcoming Region 2 meeting.
- An earlier meeting with Damian Drum MP was noted where G Dobson and M Lamb were a request for recurrent funding for the MDA was addressed.

## **Region 5**

- P Raison indicated that the Rain had kept much of Region 5 at bay.

## **Region 6**

- M Rebbeck noted that with the rainfall more water had been coming through the Murray Mouth.
- A note was made of an increase in drownings that may be related to the increase in river flow. M Rebbeck queried whether the MDA should advocate more for water safety when out on the river.
- M Rebbeck indicated that Region 6 is well underway in preparing Motions for the 2022 MDA National Conference, while noting that SA would be in 'care-taker mode' in September which may have an affect on the National Conference.

## **Region 7**

- A Tilley noted that Region 7 was getting back into gear following affects from COVID-19.
- The Region Chair noted that Region 8 remains unrepresented.
- A Tilley highlighted the opportunity for membership growth in Adelaide, as the city hosts many potential member councils, while acknowledging the difficulty in attending other council meetings to advocate for the MDA in person as all councils in the Region meet simultaneously.

## **Region 10A**

- C Davies noted heavy, but isolated, rainfall across the region, citing the dam level at 121% (accounting for the flood mitigation zone).

## **Region 12**

- S O'Toole noted that Region 12 was preparing for the year ahead following COVID-19 and dry weather.



## 8. National Conference

### 8.1 Draft AGM Motions

M Rebbeck noted the importance of Regions preparing their motions, as the process takes time to complete.

D Thurley encouraged all members to consider motions for the upcoming 2022 National Conference and to provide feedback on potential Speakers.

- G Dobson noted that they had spoken to David McKenzie from the Water Leadership Group, citing them as an ideal guest speaker.

## 9. Meeting Schedule

M Rebbeck noted that the scheduled monthly meeting of the Board was working quite well.

G Dobson suggested a more frequent schedule of Board, or 'working parties' meetings in the lead up to the 2022 National Conference.

D Thurley indicated that the duration of 1 hr per Board Meeting was sufficient.

M Lamb referenced the upcoming 2022 Strategic Planning Workshop (SPW) on 23/2/22 in Canberra, noting the opportunity it presents to meet politicians and key stakeholders.

- M Lamb addressed the structure of the SPW, with an in-part focus on recurrent funding.
- D Thurley suggested circulating a list among Board Members for ideas and Topics to discuss.
- M Rebbeck noted that a draft will need to be supplied for Council Travel Approval. M Rebbeck questioned whether it is possible to include a virtual attendance option for those unable to travel.
  - D Thurley indicated that the MDBA had adequate facilities and hardware available for virtual attendance.
- S O'Toole noted that if they are unable to attend, the CEO would represent Region 12 in her stead.
- P Raison indicated that they would likely attend virtually.
- C Davies queried whether the SPW could be refined to conclude by 3:30pm to allow for ample time to travel.
  - M Lamb indicated that the MDA will attempt to refine the meeting to cater for attendees travelling from far locations.

## 10. Meeting Close

The Chair to declare the meeting closed at **10:34am**.