



# Media Release

27 May 2021

## 77<sup>th</sup> MDA National Conference a resounding success

For four days last week, the Murray Darling Association met in Wentworth, NSW on Barkandji country for its 77th Annual General Meeting and National Conference.

The theme of the conference was *Collaboration – Connecting Catchments and Communities*. With the conference opened by Environment Minister, the Hon Sussan Ley, and addresses by the NSW Water Minister the Hon Melinda Pavey and Water NSW CEO Jim Bentley and closed by the Minister for Water and Northern Australia, the Hon Keith Pitt.

Murray Darling Association, CEO, Emma Bradbury stated “the agenda was a robust one, with attendees having an appetite for discussion and finding implementable solutions and water policy reforms for the challenges facing our Murray Darling Basin communities.”

“Across the history of the MDA this was the most ambitious program of motions, ranging from climate change action, indigenous representation in local government and water policy, carp mitigation, connectivity and end of system flow targets, and recognition of the significance of the Menindee Lakes as a possible RAMSAR site.” Ms Bradbury added.

The conference also included a tour of Menindee Lakes before meeting for formal proceedings with delegates hearing from key community leaders such as Graeme McCrabb, Rachel Strachan and Alan Whyte on the impact of restricted water flows into the Menindee lake system and the surrounding communities.

“With representatives across 70 councils, multiple indigenous nations, as well as all of the Commonwealth Water departments and many of the NSW State water departments, agencies. As well as local and federal Members of Parliament, media, schools all coming together to share stories, knowledge and a pathway to stronger, more sustainable management of our water and natural resources.” Ms Bradbury added.

Included in the attendees were alumni of the Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Program, who also participated fully in the events.

Minutes from the AGM can be found [here](#) at [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au).

Images from the conference are available on request.

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