



## MDA Delegates Report

July 2022

*The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin.*

*The following report should be tabled at council and provides delegates and their councils with an overview of MDA activities and engagements.*

### **A note from the Murray Darling Association CEO:**

*The conclusion of the Murray Darling Association's Basin Communities Leadership Program signals the Association's continued goal of improving water, and leadership literacy across the Murray-Darling Basin.*

*A promising development to the relationship between the Murray Darling Association and the CSIRO was heralded through a partnership to investigate and explore a series of strategic growth areas in the Circular Economy sphere, particularly in reference to the biggest land and water challenges.*

*With continued progress being made, the MDA is excited to announce that Early Bird tickets are now available for the 78<sup>th</sup> National Conference and AGM! The 78<sup>th</sup> National Conference is **the** opportunity to join in conversation, inform future policy, and engage with innovators, representatives, and the leaders of our time!*



## Contents

1. Foreword .....	2
2. Key Meetings & Events.....	2
3. Working towards Vision 2025.....	3
4. MDA Board Meetings .....	3
5. Region Meetings .....	3
6. 78th National Conference Economics, Dams, and Infrastructure .....	4
7. CSIRO and the Circular Economy .....	5
8. Basin Communities Leadership Program .....	5

## 1. Foreword

***The MDA is excited to announce that Early Bird Ticket prices are now available for the MDA's 2022 78th National Conference, 19 – 21 September 2022.***

*With the successful completion of its Basin Communities leadership Program, The Murray Darling Association is making continued progress towards the goals set out by the 2021 National Conference and the Association's Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. Progress is being made in preparation of the Association's next big event; the 2022 National Conference and AGM to be held in Albury in September 2022.*

## 2. Key Meetings & Events

The below table summarises the association's key engagements with the Basin communities.

Date	Event/meeting	Location
10/5/22	Meeting with the Narromine Shire Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
17/5/22	Meeting with the MAV to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
24/5/22	Meeting with the MRLGA – Water Position Paper Workshop	Held Virtually
13/5/22	Meeting with the AlburyCity Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Albury
25/5/22	Meeting with RAMJO to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Albury
27/5/22	Meeting with ALGA to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Canberra
2/6/22	Meeting with the Mildura Rural City Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
6/6/22	Meeting with LGASA to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Adelaide
9/6/22	One Basin CRC: All Partner Briefing Session 1	Held Virtually
9/6/22	Meeting with Jim Bentley – DPIE	
10/6/22	Meeting with LGNSW to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
14/6/22	One Basin CRC: All Partner Briefing Session 2	Held Virtually
20/6/22	Meeting with Guy Barnett – CSIRO – to discuss/refine the 'sustainable and resilient infrastructure research' focus	Held Virtually
21/6/22	Meeting with the Alexandrina Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
21/6/22	Meeting with Bridget Leopold - MDBA	Wodonga
22/6/22	Meeting with Asia Pacific Waste Solutions to discuss Narromine Gasification to Energy proposal	Held Virtually
22/6/22	Meeting with Michele Akeroyd – CSIRO	Held Virtually
23/6/22	Meeting with the City of Mitcham Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
24/6/22	Meeting with the Toowoomba Regional Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Held Virtually
27/6/22	Meeting with the Greater Shepparton City Council to discuss the implementation of a Circular Economy	Shepparton



### 3. Working towards Vision 2025

Vision 2025 is the Murray Darling Association's five-year Strategic Plan. It sets out the association's goals and describes the strategies we will implement to achieve them.

Vision 2025 is built upon the foundations established by the 2016-19 Strategic Plan, and confirms our place as the Basin's primary driver in local leadership and policy development.

To view the current Strategic Plan, visit the [MDA website](#), or contact the office on [\(03\) 5480 3805](#)

Goal	How	Reference
Local Leadership/Leadership and Engagement	MRLGA Water Position Paper Working Group Meeting	The <a href="#">MRLGA</a> was established to work with the Local Government Association of South Australia in achieving its aims and objectives and to provide strong advocacy on what matters most to the communities of the Constituent Councils.  The MDA through its Regions and representation is continuing to engage with the MRLGA to develop its Water Position Paper
Science & Education	MDA-CSIRO Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Circular Economy Market Analysis workshops</li></ul>	The Murray Darling Association will be conducting workshops across NSW, QLD, VIC, and SA, engaging LGA/Councils and LG Associations such as ALGA, MAV, LGNSW, LGAQ, and LGASA [See outgoing correspondence, MDA Board Meeting 416]
Inform better government policy	MDA-CSIRO Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Circular Economy Market Analysis workshops</li></ul>	The Murray Darling Association will be conducting workshops across NSW, QLD, VIC, and SA, engaging LGA/Councils and LG Associations such as ALGA, MAV, LGNSW, LGAQ, and LGASA [See outgoing correspondence, MDA Board Meeting 416]
Exchange information & facilitate informed debate	2022 Strategic Planning Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The MDA held its Strategic Planning Workshop in Canberra in Feb 2022.</li></ul>	The Workshop, held at the MDBA head offices, offered a unique opportunity to engage with the heads of the Authority, as well as further cement the relationship between the MDA and the CSIRO, who were invited to present to the workshop.
Engagement in policy process	Engagement with Hon Tanya Plibersek MP via letter commending the Federal Government to support and maintain the Murray-Darling Basin Plan's goal of recovering an additional 450GL of Up Water.	[See Outgoing Correspondence, MDA Board Meeting 416]

### 4. MDA Board Meetings

The Murray Darling Association held its most recent Board Meeting on 16 May 2022. The MDA Board meet monthly for the purpose of knowledge sharing, regional development, and inter-regional collaboration.

The MDA makes all board meeting [Minutes](#) available on the MDA website.

### 5. Region Meetings

Our 12 regions meet quarterly. Each meeting is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with councils in your region and hear from fantastic guest speakers. To find out when your next region meeting is, please [contact your chair](#) or our office on [\(03\) 5480 3805](#).

To find out more about what is happening in other MDA regions, please head over to [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au), where all region meeting [minutes](#) are available.



## 6. 78th National Conference Economics, Dams, and Infrastructure

A banner for the 78th National Conference & AGM. The top half features a photograph of a panel discussion with several people seated on a stage. Overlaid on the left is the text "78th National Conference & AGM" in large blue font, followed by "19 - 21 September, 2022 Albury, NSW" in a smaller blue font. On the right is the Murray Darling Association logo, which is a circular emblem with a green mountain and blue waves, and the text "MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION" around the perimeter. The bottom half of the banner has a green background with the text "REGISTER NOW!" in large white font, and a dark blue bar below it with "EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE" in white font.

# 78th National Conference & AGM

19 - 21 September, 2022 Albury, NSW

## REGISTER NOW!

EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE

In a year where much has been disrupted and affected by COVID-19, it comes as no surprise that the towns, regions, and countries to emerge quickest and strongest are those with innovative, connected local leadership.

This can be said doubly so for local government and the communities of the Murray-Darling Basin. Basin councils have, after all, spent years building connections, infrastructure and resilient economies across catchments and communities.

A resilient economy, and infrastructure to support it, is essential to our people. In the same way, a healthy river system must have a balance of flow and harvest. **There is no future on a dry system.**

This exciting event will bring together leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin, and will be a wonderful opportunity to meet again, face to face.

The MDA's 78<sup>th</sup> National Conference & AGM is ***your opportunity*** to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and to engage with the innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time.

[Join us in Albury](#), home to the winding Murray River and its waterways; where local, technical, and political leaders will come together to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future for councils, catchments, and communities.





## 7. CSIRO and the Circular Economy

CSIRO Land and Water has partnered with MDA to investigate and explore a series of strategic growth areas that align with the biggest land and water challenges faced by Australian governments/agencies, industries, and communities. These growth areas will build on capabilities and that of our partners and transform the boundaries of the types of products, research projects and services we might collaborate on.

They have identified Repurposing Waste / Circular Economy as a strategic growth area, and we are interested in validating this with LGA's as a valued partner. We would like to understand more about how LGA's work within the repurposing waste/circular economy area within their organisation. They were also keen to hear about any future aspirations they might have in regard to infrastructure solutions they need now and into the future.



To capture these insights. We completed a series of meetings in May and June that will help inform the future of this growth area and ensure they can design solutions that are of value for all. We will be presenting to CSIRO Directors on 20<sup>th</sup> July.



## 8. Basin Communities Leadership Program

In March, we were able to fulfil our commitment re The Basin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) with Face-to-Face Workshops in a COVID-19-safe environment.

Participants completed the MDA Academy Online Training prior to attending the face-to-Face workshops. The Online Academy covers five modules including: Leadership Theory; Water Literacy and Communicating with Impact.

The MDA worked in partnership with LGA's to support the community, boost the local economy and encourage trade in small businesses. Whilst we have completed the proposed workshops as planned, there is potential to conduct further workshops with targeted community groups.

The conclusion of the Murray Darling Association's Basin Communities Leadership Program signals the Association's continued goal of improving water, and leadership literacy across the Murray-Darling Basin.

