



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Ordinary Meeting of the Board

Monday 20 January 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/318895971>

Via Zoom Calendar

MINUTES - MEETING No. 394

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Dennis Patterson	City of Greater Shepparton	Region 2
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Brian Lockyer	Barunga West Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Council	Region 11
Andrew Johns	Gunnedah Council	Region 11
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO
Tony Banks	MDA	XO

1.2 Apologies:

Mayor Phyllis Miller – Region 10
Cr Jane MacAllister – Region 4
Cr Richard Marsh - Region 12

Motion: That the apologies be accepted and noted.

P Hunter / M Rebbeck

Carried

1.3 Declarations

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 [Meeting 393](#) held via Zoom Calendar 16 December 2019

Motion: That the minutes of board meeting 393 are approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

B Lockyer / M Rebbeck

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's report

D Thurley noted that Region 1 has been pretty hard hit by fires, particularly the Alpine shires. Albury City had a fire relief centre here for nearly 2 weeks, and a safe place space for kids. D Thurley also noted the rain in the region recently.

3.2 [Finance Report:](#)

P George provided an extensive report of the MDA's finances.

P Hunter asked for clarification regarding the licenses and subscriptions.

E Bradbury provided information about Salesforce, and T Banks spoke further about Go1, which is a learning management system, which will be used by BCLP candidates to complete pre-program learning courses online.

3.3 [Chief Executive Officers report](#)

E Bradbury commended all board members and staff for their work at the start of the year regarding actions on recent bushfires. The position that the MDA has taken in reaching out to our communities and providing information via circular and updated webpage has provided a platform for our members to feel that the MDA is providing information of value to members.

E Bradbury also provided an update on the upcoming strategic workshop and the strategic plan. E Bradbury noted that T Banks has put in a lot of work articulating the MDA's concepts and ideas, and created a strong foundations for a working document, which is now with the graphics team to develop that into a draft for consultation to the board in the next week, and that will form basis for this year's strategic planning workshop.

3.4 [Region reports](#)

Region 6

Cr Melissa Rebbeck: *We've been heavily involved in the Kangaroo Island fires. Getting stock off the island has been a big thing. The number of livestock losses and economic loss is huge but we also feel it for each other's states and regions. I guess in a positive note I'm really excited to see the climate change position statement. We've got to focus on rebuilding our regions in a positive way, and I see that as a climate-positive way. How can we do this to regenerate our landscape but also sequester the carbon at the same time? I'd like to see some of the funding that's been donated and collected at all the different councils looking at that, and what opportunity we have to look at that approach.*

Region 8

Cr Brian Lockyer: *Just prior Christmas, CEO of the Burunga West Council resigned. During our holiday break we've had executive meetings in the process of trying to replace and get a temporary CEO. I haven't had the time to communicate extensively in our region. We've had a couple of big bushfires and 11 homes have been destroyed and 33 people have been injured. There was about 5000 hectares of land and crops that were destroyed. We weren't exempt from the fires, but hopefully when things settle down with our council re-established, I'll try to communicate a bit better with my region members. B Lockyer also spoke to board about the upcoming climate ready conference.*

ACTION: MDA executive to circulate details about the Region 8 Climate Ready conference to board members.

Region 9

Cr Paul Maytom: *Next region meeting will be held in February. I just recently attended a Build More Dams meeting in Griffith. At that particular meeting we had an MDBA representative, Murray Radcliffe, speak about the regionalisation of the MDBA. There was also a bit of an update and a lot of discussion about the drought, the plan, and the jobs lost at rice growers. There is also the Inspector General inquiry in Griffith on the 5th of February.*

E Bradbury provided the board with further information regarding the MDA's engagement with Mick Keelty's office and their encouragement of the use of peak organisations for all community groups.

Region 2

Cr Dennis Patterson: *Following discussions with Emma about membership in our region, I went ahead and organised a workshop with the group of councils in Region 2 only last Thursday. It was very well attended by representatives from Edwards River, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Berrigan. It's been difficult for our region down here, as well as other regions, with losses of life as well as cattle and stock, and no water entitlements. Following an honest and open discussion, we came up with a plan, and decided that as a region we need to have an input and feel like we're doing something. The region's perspective is that nothing has changed since the MDBP come out. That's some of our fault, that we haven't put much up to try and have an influence. A couple of recommendations going to councils in the region to see if they have support of the local councils. If they do they'll come to the next region 2 meeting, and then if accepted they'll go to the AGM in Shepparton. I really think that MDA needs to focus on education amongst ourselves – one of the biggest learning experiences that I had at the conference in Toowoomba was in the Dirranbandi hotel, where the buybacks have ruined their town. The conference will be coming up in the Shepparton region, and the focus has to be on education. There is a need to be made aware of what The Plan is doing and the issues in that region, more than showcasing our region.*

Motion: That the reports are noted.

P Hunter/ P Maytom

Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 MDA name change – Response Letters

Board meeting 392 Item 6.6 resolved to commence communications and develop a strategy for consultation on a name change. Preparatory to that, the MDA wrote to state based LGA's to notify them of the proposal and seek their support or feedback.

The following responses have been received.

[LGNSW](#)

[LGAQ](#)

[LGASA](#)

D Thurley noted that replies from the LGAs indicate that the MDA should reconsider the benefits of incorporating the words local government in its name.

M Rebbeck said feedback from region 6 has indicated a similar sentiment, and noted that, "The MDA represents more than local government, we represent our community. "

E Bradbury indicated that further action would require guidance from board.

D Thurley recommended that the board continues to have this discussion at the strategic planning meeting. M Rebbeck agreed.

Motion: That the matter be considered in the context of marketing and identity at the Strategic Workshop 2020.

B Lockyer/ D Patterson

Carried

4.2 Board meeting 390 – Action Item 4.4 resolved that the MDA executive write to all local government associations and notify them of the MDA's 76th National Conference dates, and ask them to be mindful of these dates.

[National conference date notification to LGA's](#)

4.3 Board meeting 393 resolved at Action Item 6.3 that That the MDA write to the MDBA and Basin Ministers expressing significant concern about the absence of a chair of the MDBA

[Letter to Ministers and BOC – Appointment of MDBA Chair](#)

E Bradbury spoke about initial response from the letters and noted that the chair of the Basin Officials Committee Malcom Thompson has scheduled a telephone call meeting with her on 21/01/2019.

4.4 Correspondence from Mayor Graeme Scheu raised the issue of advocacy for the Coffey Scheme through MDA, requesting that the MDA write to Deputy Prime Minister and have the initiative included in the National Water Grid and make a definite request for the \$2m funding for feasibility.

4.4.1 [Email Correspondence](#)

4.4.2 [Deputy Prime Minister Correspondence](#)

4.4.3 [Water for the Darling - The Coffey Scheme](#)

These actions are being followed up consistent with resolutions of the National Conference.

Motion: For the CEO to write to the NSW government/Water NSW and seek a briefing or report on determination of the position in relation this proposal, and ask them for information on both the Coffey Scheme and the New Bradfield scheme.

P Maytom / P Hunter

Carried

Motion: That the correspondences are noted by the Board

D Thurley / P Hunter

Carried

5 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Review of actions table

[MDA Matters in Progress arising from previous Meetings](#)

Board reviewed the motions arising and actions completed from the previous board meeting.

5.2 Basin Communities Leadership Program – [Power Point presentation](#) – Tony Banks

T Banks provided the board with a comprehensive summary of the Basin Communities Leadership Program preparation and progress to the board.

Key points included:

- The MDA will be visiting 15 locations in 2020, with 12 to 15 candidates at each of these location with a total of 225 emerging leaders.
- BCLP recruitment will open by the end of this week, and in the coming two months the MDA will go through a selection process and notify who is successful by the end of March.
- Following the selection process, successful candidates will be able to complete the pre-study modules via Go1 prior to the workshops.
- The first workshop is in May, and the final workshop is in October.
- These two-day workshops will include guest presenters, including federal state and local representation
- After October we'll stay in touch with our Basin leaders. We are putting significant bids of BCLP 2.0 and we hope that we can continue this in version 2.0 and an advanced version in a scholarship arrangement.

P Hunter requested that the board be provided an opportunity to look at the curriculum material and provide input to ensure Basin scale context.

E Bradbury noted that feedback will be requested from the board through a pre-launch workshop (online), incorporating feedback from the board at the formal launch at the strategic planning workshop.

D Thurley complimented T Banks on the work he has done so far.

5.3 Item in Confidence

5.4 Item in Confidence

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Briefing Paper – Lock Zero

The board reviewed the briefing paper and decided that the report be deferred to a later meeting for further discussion.

Motion: That this matter be deferred, and the briefing paper not yet circulated.

M Rebbeck / P Hunter

Carried

6.2 Committee of Regional Chairs (CoRC)

Monthly online workshops - Board to consider opportunity or value of a ½ - 1 hour monthly workshop to explore and exchange ideas relating to the regions.

Board discussed time availability within current workload schedule, and decided that this should only be done on an “as necessary” basis, when there is a matter that needs urgent discussion.

6.3 At Board Meeting 389 – 3.3 the board requested the development of Q & A Fact Sheets following CCC events, to help increase water literacy around the Basin beyond those who attend.

The following fact sheet has been developed and will be replicated for future events.

[Constraints FAQ](#)

P Maytom asked for further information regarding the AG2030 plan.

E Bradbury provided a brief summary of the MDA’s awareness, understanding and engagement with the AG2030 Plan.

7 **CLOSE at 12.22pm**