



Chief Executive Officer's Report
December 2020

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1. Introduction

As we come to the close of a truly fantastic year of extended drought, minor floods, devastating bushfires, fish-kills, regrowth, and a global pandemic there are some universal themes in our collective experience that I have no need to expand on here.

My reflections instead in this last CEO's report of the year will focus briefly on the amazing achievements of our team, our organisation, and our community in the face of this adversity and the optimism with which I look forward to 2021.

The members of our board and region chairs have again made a tremendous commitment this year to their respective councils and communities. Their work in translating that commitment to better outcomes for local government across the Basin is reflected in the achievements marked in our roadmap for the future [Vision 2025](#).

I am in awe of the growth, the work, and the capability of our staff this year. Amid the operating challenges of successive lockdowns, they delivered have delivered a record breaking virtual conference, unparalleled member growth and services. My thanks to each of them is heartfelt, and their commitment ensures your investment in the MDA delivers a return far in excess of the sum of its parts.

Wishing you all a restful break. Please be kind to yourself and each other and I look forward to an exciting and as yet unwritten 2021.

2. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
16/11/2020	MDA Future Drought funding Brief Session with Hello it is on purpose	Zoom
16/11/2020	Roundtable Organisers Meeting	Zoom
17/11/2020	Murray-Darling Basin Roundtable	Zoom
18/11/2020	Funding application opportunities with Ron Wood, Fred Hooper	Zoom
18/11/2020	The Hon Minister Keith Pitt	Zoom
18/11/2020	MRLGA Water Position Working Group	Zoom
19/11/2020	Roundtable Debrief	Zoom
19/11/2020	Kate Filor and Ann Holden – Department of Environment	Zoom
19/11/2020	MDBA – Tips on how to run a successful conference	Zoom
19/11/2020	Ms Carmel Pollino, Mr Neil Lazarow and Mr Graham Bonnett - CSIRO	Zoom
19/11/2020	Gavin Helgeland – Balranald Council – Region 4 Executive	Zoom
20/11/2020	Region 1 AGM	Zoom
23/11/2020	Peter Hansen – DPIE NSW	Zoom
24/11/2020	Rhiannon Schilling (PIRSE-SARDI) SA Drought Hub	Zoom
26/11/2020	Senator Rebekha Sharkie	Phone
26/11/2020	Mayor Heather Holmes Ross	Phone
26/11/2020	Region 7 Ordinary Meeting	Zoom
27/11/2020	Mayor Brenton Lewis Murray Bridge Council	Zoom

30/11/2020	Sarah Philpott – Mildura City Council	Zoom
30/11/2020	Mr Stuart Peevor Senior Ministerial Adviser to the Hon Minister Speirs	Zoom
30/11/2020	Mr Ben Bruce – SA BOC	Zoom
30/11/2020	Mr Matt Pinnegar CEO LGASA	Zoom
01/12/2020	Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom
01/12/2020	Peter Cullen Trust – Basin Community Leadership Program	Zoom
02/12/2020	Australian National University’s Institute for Water Futures	Zoom
02/02/2020	Region 9 Ordinary Meeting	Zoom
03/12/2020	Paul Weller – Lockington Resident – who is driving initiatives locally that are adapting, and even thriving amid changes in water availability.	Rochester/Lockington
03/12/2020	Future Drought Fund	Zoom
04/12/2020	SNSW Drought Hub - The Hon Niall Blair – Charles Sturt University	Zoom
07/12/2020	Region 2 AGM and Ordinary Meeting	Yarrawonga
07/12/2020	2021 National Conference Committee Meeting	Zoom
08/12/2020	Region 4 Ordinary Meeting	Zoom
08/12/2020	Nous / Environmental Water – Trust & Transparency in water administration in NSW	Zoom
09/12/2020	Update to Board on Consultation Process (Change of name)	Zoom
10/12/2020	Southern NSW Hub	Zoom
10/12/2020	LGNSW – Scott Phillips, Shaun McBride Name change consultation	Zoom
11/12/2020	MDA Region 8 Ordinary Meeting	Zoom
15/12/2020	LGAAQ – Mr Greg Hallam	Zoom

3. One Basin CRC

The CRC Program supports industry, research, and the community in 2 ways: CRC Grants – support medium to long term industry-led collaborative research, for up to 10 years. CRC Projects (CRC-P) grants – support short term, industry-led collaborative research, for up to 3 years.

The One Basin CRC stage 1 proposal was successful in being shortlisted with 4 other CRC bids. It included 64 partners from across multiple sectors and all regions of the Murray-Darling.

The MDA has been invited to participate in the Stage 2 interview process alongside three other key agencies including the MDBA, the Basin Community Committee and the National Farmers Federation.

4. 77th National Conference and AGM – Wentworth

Planning for the national conference is progressing with key decisions on the date being brought forward to May and the theme exploring all elements of Connectivity to be finalised at this month’s board meeting.

5. Basin Community Leadership Program

In 2021 the MDA will deliver the 13 community leadership programs which were postponed in 2020 due to travel restrictions under COVID 19.

A new facilitator Paul Frazier from the Peter Cullen Trust will deliver the program across all regions following the departure of Kate McMasters.

Trip 3 will encompass the QLD regions with dates to be confirmed later in the year.

We thank Kate for her exceptional facilitation on the Wakool and Warren workshops.

TRIP 1

Proposed:

Rochester	25 th and 26 th February 2021
Mildura (Council)	1 st and 2 nd March 2021
Mildura (Red Cliffs, Colignan, Merbein)	4 th and 5 th March 2021
Loxton	8 th and 9 th March 2021
Lower Lakes	11 th and 12 th March 2021

TRIP 2

Cobdogla	25 th and 26 th March 2021
Berri	29 th and 30 th March 2021
Swan Reach	31 st March and 1 st April 2021

6. Newly Elected Region 2 Chair

Region 2 recently held their AGM (7TH December 2020) which was hosted by Federation Council who has been duly elected host Council with Cr Bronwyn Thomas as the newly elected Chair. We extend our congratulations to Cr Thomas and look forward to working with Region 2 in the future.

Our outgoing Chair Dennis Patterson who has left an enduring legacy for the region will continue to participate and support Cr Thomas and the MDA.



National President Cr David Thurley OAM, Emma Bradbury, Cr Bronwyn Thomas & Dennis Patterson

7. Christmas Break

The MDA office will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December 2020 – Monday 4th January 2021

Wednesday 23rd December 2020

Thursday 24th December 2020

Friday 25th December 2020 – Christmas Day

Monday 28th December 2020

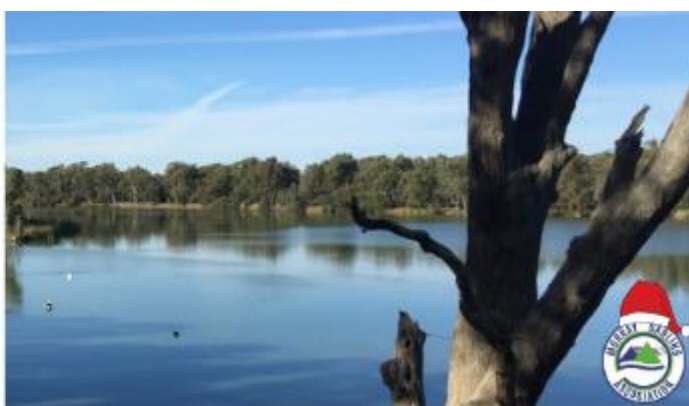
Tuesday 29th December 2020

Wednesday 30th December 2020

Thursday 31st December 2020

Friday 01st January 2021

From all the team at the MDA we sincerely wish everyone a very happy, safe, and joyous festive season, we look forward to working with you all in 2021.



Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer