



Board Meeting 414 MINUTES

18 March 2022

Murray Darling Association Incorporated
ABN 64 636 490 493

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Meeting Commencement Time

9:30am

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
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 3
Cr Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO

2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12

MOTION

(Cr G Andrezza / Cr G Dobson)

That the apologies be received and noted.

CARRIED

2.3 Declarations

Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Refer to - Attachment 3

MOTION

(Cr M Rebbeck / Cr A Tilley)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 413 held on 31 January 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.

CARRIED

4. Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair provided a verbal report noting the current high level of water in the Hume Dam. Noted that many people were worried about the high water. The Chair indicated that the MDBA had managed the Dam quite well, having left it in a good position with water storage, noting Dartmouth Dam's storage level at around 91%.

MOTION

(Cr A Tilley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the Chair's report be noted.

CARRIED

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO provided his report for noting.

The CEO referenced the BCLP rollout from 21/3/22 – 31/3/22.

The CEO noted discussions with the CSIRO via Jane Coram regarding engagement across the Murray-Darling Basin with 10 'interventions,' indicating that there was more news to come.

Refer to Attachment 4.2

MOTION

(Cr A Tilley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the CEO's report be noted.

CARRIED

4.3 Finance Reports

The Interim Treasurer presented the finance reports for noting.

Refer to Attachment 4.3

MOTION

(Cr A Tilley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the Finance Reports be noted.

CARRIED

[Interim Treasurer Peter George departed at 9:47am]

5. Correspondence

5.1 Incoming

Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
31/1/22	CEO Bernie O'Sullivan	RE: Murray Darling Association Membership
9/2/22	Mayor Matthew Hannan, Berrigan Shire Council	Releases from Hume Dam
18/2/22	CEO Karina Ewer, Berrigan Shire Council	Cancellation of MDA Membership

5.2 Outgoing

Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
9/2/22	Mayor Mathew Hannan, Berrigan Shire Council	RE: Releases from Hume Dam

- D Thurley noted the correspondence from Berrigan Shire Council, indicating the confusion between the MDBA and the MDA
 - M Lamb noted continued discussion with the Berrigan Shire Council CEO.
 - G Dobson asked to be included in future correspondence and discussion.

MOTION

(Cr M Rebbeck / Cr A Tilley)

That the correspondence be received and noted.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Board Resolution Register

The CEO presented the Board Resolution Register for noting.

Refer to Attachment 5.1

MOTION

(Cr A Tilley / Cr G Andreazza)

That the report be noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Revisit of Motion 5.2 LAKE MEJUM / LAKE COOLAH FEASIBILITY – Region 9

G Andreazza noted the recent discussion of the Motion 5.2 at the recent Region 9 Ordinary Meeting, noting the following:

- The project presentation included some ‘rubbery’ numbers.
- That David Farley did not have a personal investment/interest in the project.
- A problem with ministers listening to irrigators more, as opposed to their voters, highlighting this as the biggest hurdle in the success of the project.
 - M Rebbeck indicated that she would appreciate seeing the presentation to better understand the project
 - G Andrezza confirmed that this should not be an issue. Noted that the project could have a benefit for communities right along the river.
 - D Thurley indicated that the MDA needs to ensure that the community’s view on the project was as strong as the irrigators.
 - G Andrezza indicated that he would share the presentation with the Board Members.
 - D Thurley noted that the MDA should be able to put aside 30 mins for D Farley to present the project.

7.2 MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program

The CEO noted the opportunities for developing the leadership program for future rollout, referencing interest from the Dairy Business Network for a customised leadership program workshop, separate from the current program rollout.

7.3 Membership and Engagement

T Elstone queried the reluctance of the non-member councils in Region 1.

- D Thurley noted that there was a feeling of divorced priorities, based on misunderstandings, citing a need for focus on irrigation and industry. Noted a need to indicate that the MDA stands strongly on their side.

M Rebbeck queried whether the MDA needed a program focussed on a membership drive. Include a feature of each region looking at issues of each region specifically as well as what the MDA can do for you. M Rebbeck noted that people don’t realise the value of representation.

- M Lamb agreed, suggesting that, as part of this drive, the Region Chairs invite the non-member councils to come together.
- D Thurley indicated his support for this.
- G Dobson noted that Region 2 would be more than willing to host such an event.

7.4 Reports for Delegates

Region 2

- G Dobson indicated that they had attended an MDBA meeting which had addressed the Barmah Choke issue, which highlighted the different means of management of the sand slug.

7.5 Strategic Planning Workshop 2022

The CEO provided an update on the recent Strategic Planning Workshop, noting that he had received some feedback from Region Chairs already.

8. National Conference

8.1 Draft AGM Motions

The CEO indicated that no draft motions had been submitted so far.

The CEO opened the item to general discussion.

The CEO noted that the National Conference 2022 was progressing well, indicating a need to select guest speakers. Indicated a push to make the National Conference 2022 attendance only, with the cost outweighing the benefits of offering virtual streaming.

- D Thurley noted the value of the conference felt diminished when virtual streaming was offered. Indicated that he had reached out to speakers regarding history of the Hume Dam. Asked Board Members to seek potential guest speakers and to approach the CEO with guest speaker suggestions.
- M Rebbeck queried whether there were any updates on the flooding in SNW following the incredible rainfall.
 - D Thurley indicated that the National Conference could certainly address discussion of climate change and floods.
 - T Elstone noted that NSW was expecting 500-700 GL to come down the Darling.

9. Meeting Close

The Chair to declare the meeting closed at **10:20am**.