



Board Meeting 416 MINUTES

18 July 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	AlburyCity Council	Region 1
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Region 2
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 3
Cr Jason Modica	Mildura Rural City Council	Region 4
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO
GM Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge	(Guest)
CEO Michael Sedgman	Rural City of Murray Bridge	(Guest)
David Farley	Matrix Commodities	(Guest Presentation)

2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
CEO Nigel Morris	Alexandrina Council	(Guest)
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Glen Andreazza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10

2.3 Declarations

Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 415 held on 16 May 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.

Refer to - Attachment 3

4. Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair, National President Cr D Thurley, provided their report verbally.

The Chair indicated that the Dams were being managed well, referenced their recent attendance to a MDBA meeting.

The Chair referred to the region's ground saturation level, noted that the region may have an interesting 3 months ahead.

MOTION

(D Thurley / S O'Toole)

That the Chair's report be noted.

4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO, M Lamb, to provide their report for noting.

The CEO noted the conclusion of the BCLP, emphasised the delivery of the financial report and required audit that was submitted before the end of financial year.

- Noted an additional set of funds were unlocked through the final document submissions.

The CEO referenced the CSIRO-MDA Partnership Project: Circular Economy Market Analysis.

- Noted that the CEO would be meeting with the CSIRO this week to present the report and to meet other departments.
- Noted that the Circular Economy Market Analysis allowed for the MDA to broaden its interests.
- Indicated that the report could be circulated among Board Members.

The CEO noted that the MDA's 78th National Conference was gathering registrations, with Early Bird Ticket prices opening on 30 June 2022, with standard Ticket prices kicking in on 1 August 2022.

- Indicated that many Guest Speakers had been confirmed, though made note that a number of politicians had yet to confirm their availability, such as the Environment and Water Minister Hon Tanya Plibersek MP and the State Water Ministers.
- Indicated that the venues for the Study Tour, Civic Reception, Gala Dinner, and the main Conference had been locked in with a goal of 250 people.
- Emphasised the intent to avoid virtual attendance to this year's Conference.
- Noted current sponsors:
 - IXOM (PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP)
 - MDBA (SILVER SPONSORSHIP)

D Thurley noted that the MDA had invited the NSW Water Minister but had received no reply. Noted the recent submission of several Water Resource Plans, though none of which had been approved.

- J Chaffey indicated that the NSW Water Minister was their local member, noted that they could reach out to the Minister.

G Dobson noted that Sam Birrell, the Nationals Member for Nicholls, may be a good Guest Speaker. Suggested that the VIC Water Minister, Harriett Shing could be contacted.

- M Lamb confirmed that the MDA had approached the VIC Water Minister.

J Chaffey suggested that the MDA invite the Shadow Water Minister, Senator Perin Davey, as a Guest Speaker.

- M Lamb affirmed, noted that inviting the Shadow Water Minister would be an excellent opportunity.

Refer to Attachment 4.2

MOTION

(D Thurley / J Chaffey)

That the CEO's report be noted.

4.3 Finance Reports

The Treasurer supplied the Finance Report for noting.

Refer to Attachment 4.3

MOTION

(J Modica / S O'Toole)

That the Finance report be noted.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Incoming

Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
14/6/2022	Hon Kevin Anderson MP	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
6/7/2022	Hon Sussan Ley MP	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
	MDA Membership – Remittance Advice	Campbelltown City Council City of Tea Tree Gully Cobar Shire Council Coonamble Shire Council Gilgandra Shire Council Mid Murray Council Towong Shire Council Renmark-Paringa Council Snowy Valleys Council Wentworth Shire Council Tatiara District Council Walgett Shire Council Western Downs Regional Council AlburyCity Council Murrumbidgee Council Liverpool Plains Shire Council Moirra Shire Council Lachlan Shire Council Southern Mallee District Council Broken Hill City Council Cowra Shire Council Light Regional Council Mitcham Council City of Wagga Wagga Federation Council
	Funds – Remittance Advice	Destination NSW – 2022 National Conference

5.2 Outgoing

Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
16/5/22	Robert Ferguson – LGAQ	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
16/5/22	Kate Middleton – Toowoomba Regional Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
16/5/22	Nicole Emara, Dr Heinz Schandl – CSIRO	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
23/5/22	Sharon Terry – Greater Shepparton City Council	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
25/5/22	Brendan Murray – IXOM	MDA 2022 National Conference – Platinum Sponsorship
30/5/22	Greg Ryan – Albury & District Historical Society	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/30/5/22	Mark Francis – Murray Regional Tourism	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
1/6/22	Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	Congratulating on appointment to the Ministerial Portfolio of Environment and Water
8/6/22	MDA Members	MDA Progress and Achievements, Benefits of MDA membership
8/6/22	MDA Non-Members	MDA Progress and Achievements, Benefits of MDA membership
10/6/22	CEO Andrew McConville – MDBA	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
10/6/22	Cr Andrew Tilley – City of Mitcham	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
15/6/22	Nicole Emara, Dr Andrea Walton	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
21/6/22	Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
22/6/22	Gemma Londema – CSIRO	MDA-CSIRO Partnership – Circular Economy Market Analysis
23/6/22	Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	Achieving 450GL of Upwater
27/6/22	Hon Sussan Ley MP	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
4/7/22	Hilton Taylor – CEWO	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
11/7/22	Professor James Pittock – ANU	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation

MOTION

(M Rebbeck / A Kassebaum)

That the correspondence be received and noted.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Region 6 – MDA Region Chair Proxy Rights

That the MDA enable proxy representation with full rights for all Region Chairs at the AGM, Ordinary Meetings, Executive Meetings, and other meetings the Region may hold in the event that a Region Chair is unable to attend.

M Rebbeck noted earlier correspondence with the MDA CEO M Lamb, and MDA Communications and Engagement Officer regarding MDA Region Chair Proxy Rights

- D Thurley noted that this was a sensible motion.

MOTION

(M Rebbeck / G Dobson)

That the MDA enable proxy representation with full rights for all Region Chairs at the AGM, Ordinary Meetings, Executive Meetings, and other meetings the Region may hold in the event that a Region Chair is unable to attend.

6.2 Region 7 – Individual membership application – Val Maslen

That Val Maslen's application for membership be referred to the board for approval.

Refer to Attachment 6.2

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the individual membership application by Val Maslen be approved.

6.3 Region 7 – That the MDA contact the MDBA regarding the John Kell Proposal (Advice and Support)

That the MDA contact the MDBA advising of the full potential of the John Kell proposal and that an appropriate motion of support be put before the MDBA.

The MDA Board addressed, and discussed, Items 6.3 and 6.4.

D Thurley noted that this motion could be problematic, in that it asked the MDA to support the John Kell Proposal which appears to be a modified Bradfield Scheme in which the Hell's Gate Dam on the Burdekin diverts water through a series of tunnels in the Dividing Range to the inland river network.

- Noted that a task force had previously investigated the feasibility and business case and had lodged a report with the Queensland government.
 - Indicated that the MDA should wait for this report rather than act on work by John Kell which extols the virtues of the scheme.
 - J Modica noted support for this course of action. Indicated that the MDA needed information before proceeding.
- Indicated that the previous Federal government, pushed by the Nationals, were championing several schemes for new or altered dams including raising the height of Wyangala Dam on the Lachlan.
- Noted that the cost of a project such as the John Kell Proposal would likely be in the tens of billions of dollars.

Refer to Attachment 6.3

6.4 Region 7 – That the MDA contact the MDBA regarding the John Kell Proposal (Water Volume)

That the MDA contact the MDBA requesting as a matter of urgency to take steps to ascertain what water volume of the John Kell proposal should be secured for the future of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Refer to Attachment 6.4

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the CEO of the MDA write to the Federal Minister for the Environment and to the relevant Ministers in NSW and Queensland seeking an update and the latest information on proposed new dams and changes to existing dams including, but not limited to, the modified Bradfield Scheme (the John Kell proposal) and the Wyangala Dam.

6.5 Region 9 – Nomination of Life Membership for Paul Maytom, former Region 9 Chair

That the nomination for Life Membership for Paul Maytom, former Region 9 Chair, be referred to the board for review.

D Thurley noted Mr Paul Maytom's history as a long-term member and Chair on the MDA Board.

Refer to Attachment 6.5

MOTION

(J Chaffey/ J Modica):

That the Life Membership nomination for Paul Maytom, former Region 9 Chair, be approved.

6.6 Board Resolution Register

Board to review the motions and actions completed.

M Rebbeck noted that there may have been some motions from previous years that had fallen off on the Resolution Register.

ACTION

M Rebbeck, M Lamb, and T Phillips to correspond regarding previous year's motions.

G Dobson noted the recognition of the Menindee Lakes as a RAMSAR site. Noted that it continued to be an important motion.

- J Modica indicated that they were happy to correspond with the Councillor who put the motion forward. Noted that there may be a disconnect between the protocol behind the RAMSAR committee and what the MDA is capable of doing regarding RAMSAR site recognition.

Refer to Attachment 6.6

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the report be noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Guest Presentation – David Farley: Lake Mejum / Lake Coolah Project

Item 7.1 was bypassed until the Guest Presenter, David Farley, was available to speak. The item was readdressed at 10:40am.

[David Farley joined at 10:40am]

David Farley presented to the MDA Board on the Lake Mejum / Lake Coolah Project.

- Noted their history and involvement in large water body projects.
- Indicated that their exploration of the economics of water, the opportunities tied to this.
 - Referenced logistic times and losses to water as it travelled west.
 - Indicated that the Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah project proposal looked at using the latest technology, using LIDAR to survey the region, and establish several storage pools to store water throughout the winter months to be then utilised as environmental or irrigation water, or for renewable energies.
 - Noted the opportunity to use Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah to store 450,000ML off river, opening up 450,000ML in the Burrinjuck Dam, opening up a total of 900,000ML of water.

- Noted a push for the investigation of Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah project through LIDAR survey and research, follow up with invested capital/funds.
- Emphasised that a feasibility study would be the first step, noting that the project could support water hungry industries, such as the Almond Industry, and store carryover water from the start of Autumn to the start of Spring.

D Thurley queried what the MDA's involvement would be for this project.

- D Farley noted that this would affect much of the Murray-Darling Basin, that they would be looking for advocacy to the State and Federal Governments to proceed with this project. Asked that the MDA advocate for a feasibility study of the Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah project.

G Dobson noted that there was a Motion at the MDA's 2021 National Conference in reference to the Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah project.

J Modica queried how the MDA would unfold this for the communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

- D Farley noted that the MDA could look first at who would own the end result of the Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah project. Noted the biggest challenge would be to correspond with politicians and look at the macros of the project. Indicated that if it was owned by NSW and used water offtake, the MDA could correspond with the MDBA to discuss the benefits for the communities.
 - J Modica noted the mentioned benefits, indicated that it would be interesting to see the effects on river intake and creeks.

D Thurley queried whether D Farley could lodge a written submission for the MDA to take forth.

- D Farley indicated that they would be willing to provide a written submission.

D Thurley indicated that the MDA would continue to correspond with D Farley to establish the MDA's intent to advocate for this project.

7.2 Membership and Engagement

The MDA CEO, M Lamb, noted that the MDA was on a campaign to encourage non-member entities to consider MDA Membership, to show the benefits of membership to councils, organisations, and individuals.

- Noted a meeting with Berrigan Shire Council that M Lamb and G Dobson would attend.
- Noted a recent meeting/presentation at the Council of Mayors, indicated intent to attend the following Council of Mayors in Queensland.

G Dobson reference the Murray River Group of Councils, noted that the main individual who had been against MDA Membership had left Campaspe Shire Council. Indicated an opportunity to reengage with the councils and push for MDA Membership.

M Rebbeck noted that Membership needed larger discussion. Indicated that it would be a difficult task to visit all councils. Suggested that the production of a video and fact sheet may be beneficial. Noted that the biggest barrier for individual membership was the need to pay, queried whether individual membership could be subsidised by councils.

- D Thurley affirmed that a video and fact sheets could be very useful. Noted that this could be a priority following the 2022 National Conference.

J Modica noted that Murray River Group of Councils were quite closed to the opportunities that MDA Membership offered, noted an opportunity to continue to advocate Membership and representation. Encouraged Region Chairs to advocate for the MDA too.

G Dobson queried whether the MDA would send out invitations to non-member councils and entities to attend part of the Conference as an introduction to the MDA.

J Chaffey raised the topic of the 2023 National Conference submissions, indicated that Gunnedah Shire Council would not be contesting the 2023 National Conference submission. Noted that Gunnedah Shire Councils had not been able to gain the commitment from Tamworth Shire Council due to political issues, though strongly signalled that Region 11 would be posting a submission for the 2024 National Conference.

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the report be noted.

[Jamie Chaffey departed 10:34am]

7.3 Reports for Delegates

The Delegate's report was provided for noting.

Refer to Attachment 7.3

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the report be noted.

8. National Conference

8.1 Draft AGM Motions

The draft AGM motions are provided for review by the Board.

Recommendation:

That the Board note the intent of the motions.

8.2 National Conference Submission for 2023

That the MDA review the following National Conference Submission for 2023:

- Rural City of Murray Bridge
 - **Refer to Attachment 8.2.1**

MOTION

(D Thurley/ J Modica)

That the MDA review the following National Conference Submission for 2023.

The MDA Board noted that the 2023 79th National Conference would be hosted in Region 6, hosted by the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

- M Rebeck noted excitement for the National Conference to be coming to South Australia.
- H Barclay noted that Region 6 would prepare a presentation for the 2022 National Conference.

9. Meeting Close

The Chair to declared the meeting closed at 11:05am.