



Board Meeting 418 MINUTES

5 December 2022

Murray Darling Association Incorporated
ABN 64 636 490 493

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Meeting Commencement Time

9:33am

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
Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Mayor 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

2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Region 5
Cr Glen Andreazza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Mayor Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10

2.3 Declarations

Nil.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

(A Kassebaum / G Andreazza)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 417 held on 5 September 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.

Refer to - Attachment 3

4. Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair, D Thurley, noted that Region 1 had sent a letter to the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) regarding Dam Operations and Management of Water downstream of the Hume Dam. D Thurley indicated this was the first time since the Murray-Darling Basin Plan had come into effect that both the Hume and Dartmouth Dams were full. The Chair noted that Region 1 had suggested that the operating rules of Hume Dam may need modifying to take into account the volume in Dartmouth Dam, as well as the effects of La Nina.

D Thurley indicated that the MDA had received correspondence from the MDBA Executive Director (River Management) Andrew Reynolds. Noted that it was positive to see that the MDBA had taken the letter's contents onboard and would take it into consideration.

- G Dobson indicated that Goulburn-Murray Water had taken a copping from the Shepparton community, agreed to Region 1's sentiment expressed in the letter.
- J Chaffey noted that their region had been immensely affected by flooding, with 9 flooding events since November 2021., referenced ___ Dam, dedicated to irrigation water, which had been managed incredibly well and had a positive effect on the Namoi River. Indicated that the other dams were not managed as well and saw major damaging effects. J Chaffey noted that this highlighted a weakness in the system, expressed that there should be more of a review of the water flows and dam capacity. Noted that if one could meter out the water from the dams, there may not be as much of an effect on the river system.
 - D Thurley noted that the letter acknowledged that water on the floodplains was not a bad thing, but that a review of the rules should still be undertaken. Noted a need to look at them wholistically.
 - J Modica voiced support, indicated that J Chaffey had spoken well on a recent radio interview regarding the issue. Noted that it came down to constraints. Raised the questions of *"What do we do when it comes down to the large volumes in the river, and additional rainfall comes? How do we utilise the super big floods to prepare for when the big flows come?"* Noted that it was refreshing to see the support given to those affected.
- G Dobson noted that there was a strong opportunity for advocacy on behalf of the MDA, offered opportunity to strengthen relationships with Non-Member Local Government Areas, Non-Local Government Entities.
- M Rebbeck noted an opportunity for the MDA to put forth a Motion that the MDA advocate for better management of Dams in the Murray-Darling Basin in preparation for, during, and post flooding events.
 - D Thurley queried whether M Rebbeck could prepare the wording of the Motion and supply to the CEO for distribution among the MDA Board.
 - J Chaffey queried whether a call to review whether Dam infrastructure should be added to the Motion.

MOTION

(D Thurley / G Dobson)

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 an immense correspondence campaign following the 2022 AGM.

M Lamb referenced correspondence and conversations with Minister Plibersek, noted a good developing relationship. Indicated that Minister Plibersek discussed involving the MDA in MINCO and the Water Reform Taskforce. M Lamb noted that he had spoken with the Minister regarding potential the potential for recurrent funding, which was not rejected during the discussion.

The CEO noted that the MDA's relationship with the One Basin CRC and SQNNSW Drought Hubs. Noted that the partnership with the CSIRO was developing further, will be signing another contract with the CSIRO to further the Circular Economy Project.

M Lamb indicated that they were quite pleased with how the conference went. M Lamb thanked T Phillips for their work in preparing, helping the operation of, and following the conference, noting that the 2022 Conference had excellent attendance, while hoping to develop bigger numbers for the 2023 Conference, with planning well underway.

M Lamb opened the meeting for questions.

- M Rebbeck noted that there may be a need to review KPIs, noted that there were many Motions where the MDA was awaiting further correspondence from Minister. Queried whether there was a way to push for more responses. Suggested going to the Media, speaking to committees, MINCO, Water Reform Taskforce. M Rebbeck noted that MLDRIN had given their support for a number of Motions from the 2022 AGM.
- J Chaffey noted that congratulations were in order for M Lamb and T Phillips. Noted that they agreed with M Rebbeck, that the MDA should push for face-to-face meetings with Ministers. J Chaffey noted that it may be worth the MDA National president and CEO to work together to organise these face-to-face meetings.
 - The National President, D Thurley, agreed, noted that in 2023 they would look to organise a trip to Parliament House. D Thurley noted agreement with M Lamb's push for the MDA to be on MINCO, highlighted the MDA's ongoing desire to have a permanent seat on MINCO, enable the presentation of updates from the MDA.
 - M Lamb noted that it was imperative for the MDA to follow up on, and organise face-to-face meetings, agreed with M Rebbeck and J Chaffey, expressed that engagement must be ongoing.
- M Rebbeck referenced the MDA's Motions and Membership drive, indicated that they saw it as a roadmap for the MDA underpinning the work going forward for the MDA Board. Queried how the MDA can prepare this to be presented to Parliament, MINCO, and other relevant bodies and entities?
 - D Thurley indicated an interest in this area, noted that local members, the whole Parliament, needed to hear of this.
 - M Rebbeck noted that perhaps the Bard request that M Lamb consider this and raise it at Board Meeting 419.
- A Tilley noted that the progress on Motions was good. Indicated that, in the correspondence sent out in South Australia, it could be beneficial to make reference to the State's Regions and Region Chairs.

Refer to Attachment 4.2

MOTION

(D Thurley / G Dobson)

That the CEO's report be noted.

4.3 Finance Reports

The Treasurer supplied the Finance Report for noting.

G Dobson noted that M Lamb be congratulated on the profitability of the 2022 National Conference.

Refer to Attachment 4.3

MOTION

(D Thurley / G Dobson)

That the Finance report be noted.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Incoming

Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
19/7/22	Senator Perin Davey – Shadow Water Minister	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
10/8/22	CEO Rod Knight – Water Stewardship Asia Pacific	MDA 2022 National Conference – Sponsorship Form
10/8/22	Shannon Symons – Bureau of Meteorology	MDA 2022 National Conference – Sponsorship
10/8/22	Martina Cusack – Goulburn-Murray Water	MDA 2022 National Conference – Study Tour
29/7/22	GM David Webb – Hay Shire Council	Murray-Darling Basin Plan – 450GL Up Water
5/8/22	Belinda Perrett – Edward River Council	Murray Darling Association Membership
8/8/22	Interim GM Dennis McIntyre – Glen Innes Severn Council	Membership of Murray Darling Association 2022/2023
10/8/22	Interim GM Dennis McIntyre – Glen Innes Severn Council	Membership of Murray Darling Association 2022/2023
12/8/22	Mayor Neville Kschenka – Narrandera Shire Council	Murray-Darling Basin Plan – 450GL Up Water
	MDA Membership – Remittance Advice	Narromine Shire Council Hay Shire Council Greater Shepparton City Council City of Victor Harbor District Council of Karoonda East Murray City of Mitcham Coorong District Council Mid-Murray Council Goondiwindi Regional Council Alexandrina Council Rural City of Murray Bridge Gunnedah Shire Council Leeton Shire Council Narrandera Shire Council

5.2 Outgoing

Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
15/7/22	Mayor Kylie King – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Deputy Mayor Steve Bowen – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Daryl Betteridge – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Stuart Baker – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Darren Cameron – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Ashley Edwards – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Alice Glachan – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
15/7/22	Cr Jessica Kellahan – AlburyCity Council	Invitation to the 2022 National Conference Civic Reception
18/7/22	Senator Perin Davey – Shadow Water Minister	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
18/7/22	Sam Birrell MP – Member for Nicholls	MDA 2022 National Conference – Guest Speaker Invitation
28/7/22	Cr Glen Andreazza – Region 9 Chair	MDA-CSIRO Circular Economy Market Analysis Report

MOTION

(D Thurley / G Dobson)

That the correspondence be received and noted.

6. Business Arising

6.1 Board Resolution Register

The Board Resolution Register was provided for review.

Refer to Attachment 6.1.1 and 6.1.2

MOTION

(D Thurley / G Dobson)

That the report be noted.

7. General Business

7.1 Membership and Engagement

M Lamb reaffirmed the MDA's planned Membership Drive in the Northern Basin, indicated that he would take on M Rebbeck's notes regarding a roadmap for 2023. M Rebbeck raised the ongoing flooding impacting much of the Basin, queried how or what the MDA's role is in all of this.

M Rebbeck noted a feeling of disconnect from the MDA and the MDA's role in supporting towns, not hearing how the regions are going, what they are doing.

M Rebbeck indicated that there was a lot happening ecologically that was not being discussed, that was having a huge impact on the Basin.

- G Dobson noted that there was a huge flood of information. Indicated that the MDA's role was even more important now with the current flooding event.

G Dobson indicated that he would be advocating strongly to the Greater Shepparton City Council, take a strong role in this situation.

M Lamb noted that during the National Conference, he spoke to the Griffith City Council CEO about the MDA's role; Was the Association only about Water, was there a greater purpose? M Lamb noted that the Griffith City Council CEO suggested that the MDA could get involved in employment, to which he noted that this was a good idea, though querying how the MDA could go about this, how the Association could be involved? M Lamb queried whether this was a distraction or an added value?

D Thurley noted that the MDA had often had discussions regarding recurrent funding, referenced the MDA's approach for permanent/recurrent funding so that the MDA could put on additional staff, spread this added value.

J Modica emphasised a strong focus on preparing for the next drought, not the next flood. Queried what was growth, beyond growth for growth's sake?

C Davies noted that he currently had reservations regarding a focus on Employment, citing an ongoing need for focus on water. C Davies indicated that NSW had Regional Development NSW, that it was a minefield and would have the MDA working flat out.

S O'Toole referenced M Rebbeck's comments on struggling to see how the communities of the Basin were going, noted an opportunity for the MDA to improve/build on this; Share the good, bad, and ugly. S O'Toole noted the potential opportunity for the MDA to support its councils, MDA could look at supporting councils during future disaster events.

- M Rebbeck queried how the MDA could expand on this? Noted that this would be incredibly time sensitive with the current flood. Noted the effect of the floods in ecology, economics.
- M Lamb noted support for S O'Toole's idea. Noted that a Regional Report could be good, write to Region Chairs, develop the framework.
- J Modica noted that all regions had a unique flooding experience. Noted a huge reduction in tourism due to flooding. Indicated that it was important to see the narrative of how the floods affected all regions.

7.2 Report for Delegates

The Delegate's Report was provided for noting.

Refer to Attachment 7.2

MOTION

(D Thurley/ G Dobson)

That the reports be noted.

8. MDA Constitution v 2022

8.1 Constitution Update

J Chaffey noted caution modifying a constitution without the approval of a member-base.

- M Rebbeck indicated that this was built on a Motion from the 2020 AGM.
- S O'Toole noted that the MDA could write to the Member-base regarding this amendment, include the updated wording and the Motion from 2020, acknowledging the delay.

Refer to Attachment 8.1

MOTION

(S O'Toole/M Rebbeck)

That the Board note the updated wording.

J Chaffey referenced the recent Region 11 Meeting. Noted that Region 11 would be putting forward a bid for the 2024 National Conference.

J Chaffey Noted speaking to M Lamb, that it would be good for the Northern Basin to have a Northern Basin Meeting, similar to the South Australian Inter-Regional Meeting, get together with councils, open it up to organisations, to discuss *Healthy River Systems, water reform, irrigation*. Indicated that they were looking at holding this meeting in May 2023. J Chaffey noted an open offer for all Region Chairs to attend.

- D Thurley noted his support for this, that it was an incredible idea.

D Thurley raised a performance appraisal for M Lamb, with a meeting to be scheduled for 2023.

9. Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:30am.

DRAFT