



# Board Meeting 419 MINUTES

**10 February 2023**

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 Marion Browne (Proxy)	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Region 5
Melissa Rebbeck		Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
<i>Vacant</i>		Region 8
Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Mayor Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Cr Greg Sauer (Proxy)	Tenterfield 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 Jason Modica	Mildura Rural City Council	Region 4
Mayor Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11

### 2.3 Declarations

(G Dobson / A Tilley)

That the apologies are noted.

## 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Refer to - Attachment 3

(G Dobson / A Tilley)

That the minutes of MDA Board Meeting 418 held on 5 December 2022 be accepted as an accurate record.

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair, D Thurley, provided their report verbally.

The Chair noted that there was very little to report. Indicated that it was very quiet over the break.

The Chair indicated that both the Dartmouth and Hume Dam were still very high, referenced recent flooding with parts of Albury under water for several weeks.

**(A Tilley / G Dobson)**

**That the Chair's report be noted.**

### 4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO, M Lamb, provided their report.

The CEO noted key areas of the report:

- Advocacy:
  - M Lamb noted that following on from the AGM the MDA has sent out a great amount of letters, with correspondence incoming.
  - M lamb indicated that the MDA's Motions were getting some traction, citing an invitation to MinCo scheduled for the meeting following the announced meeting in February.
  - M Lamb referenced several upcoming meetings across a number of regions in NSW and SA.
  - M Lamb noted discussions with Region 10A Chair C Davies regarding positioning for further funding from the NSW Government, as well as the upcoming NSW State elections.
  - M lamb referenced a number of past meetings with Ministers, as well as ongoing correspondence.
- Partnerships, Collaboration, and Engagement:
  - M Lamb noted that the MDA's past work with the CSIRO was well received, for which the association received funding. Noted a new smaller scale opportunity with the CSIRO that will provide additional funding.
  - M Lamb indicated that the MDA was continuing with its partnership with the SQNNSW and One Basin CRC, noted that this year should provide an opportunity for progress, gain value.
- 2023 National Conference:
  - M Lamb noted that the MDA Planning Committee was progressing with Conference planning, had begun negotiations with suppliers and venues.
    - M Lamb noted that he and members of the Planning Committee had visited and looked at potential venues with the intent to keep the 2023 National Conference in the heart of Murray Bridge.
    - M Lamb indicated that the Planning Committee was looking at various Study Tour options, in particular a Bus Tour of the Barrages, as well as a Boat Tour of the Coorong.
  - M Lamb referenced an upcoming 'follow-up' meeting with heads of Murray Bridge to further discuss the 2023 National Conference.

- Membership:
  - M Lamb noted that Membership was a constant focus. Indicated that the MDA would be driving membership, meeting with Region Chairs to explore membership opportunities in 2023.
- Staff Development opportunities:
  - M Lamb noted that an opportunity had arisen for MDA staff at an ANU workshop; The Next Gen Basin Workshop. Indicated that T Phillips had attended.
  - T Phillips noted that the workshop had a strong element on personal development and methods of approaching Basin-wide issues. Noted that an incredibly valuable element of the workshop was a developed network of contacts that include representatives from the DPE, DAFF, DCCEEW, DAW, MLDRIN, NIAA, NSW National parks and Wildlife, Australian River Restoration Centre, ANU (incl. ANU Institute of Water Futures), CSU Albury, Griffith University (incl. Australian Rivers Institute), and the Menindee/Australia Institute. T Phillips noted that MDBA CEO Andrew McConville spoke at the workshop.
    - M Rebbeck noted that this was a great opportunity, referenced a past discussion regarding M lamb presenting at the MDBA Conference, noted an opportunity for advocacy.
      - M lamb agreed, noted that he would also be speaking at the upcoming Legalwise Water Symposium, would be directly addressing Motions and advocacy.

**Refer to Attachment 4.2**

**(A Tilley / D Thurley)**

**That the CEO's report be noted.**

*[S O'Toole joined 9:39am]*

### **4.3 Finance Reports**

*[Item 4.3 Finance Reports was bypassed by the Chair until P George was available]*

The Treasurer to provide the Finance report.

G Dobson noted the Year-to-Date memberships, that the MDA was down \$15,000.00, queried whether this reflected membership loss or whether this was due to timing of the financial report.

- M Lamb acknowledged that the MDA had lost a few individual members and one Member Council, but indicated that this is likely a timing issue.

**Refer to Attachment 4.3**

**(P George / G Andrezza)**

**That the reports be noted.**

## **5. Correspondence**

M lamb noted that the MDA had done a tremendous amount of advocacy and was receiving correspondence.

M Lamb indicated that he would make an emphasis on Motions progress at the 2023 National Conference for transparency.

## 5.1 Incoming

### Refer to Attachment 5.1

Date	Received From	Subject
2/12/2022	MDBA – Andrew Reynolds, Executive Director (River Management)	RE: Dam Operations and Management of water downstream of Hume Dam
6/12/2022	QLD Government – Deputy Director-General Phillip Brookes	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
7/12/2022	Hon Susan Close MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Floodplain Harvesting Volume Cap MDA 2022 Motions – Benefit Cost Ratio
7/12/2022	Membership – Remittance Advice	Tamworth Regional Council
8/12/2022	Department of Education – Assistant Secretary Shane Samuelson	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
15/12/2022	Hon Linda Burney MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
19/12/2022	Hon Blair Boyer MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
20/12/2022	Hon Glenn Butcher MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Exploring the potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge MDA 2022 Motions – Benefit Cost Ratio Requirements
28/12/2022	A/g CEO Abby Dickson, City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Withdrawal of Membership
30/12/2022	Hon Kyam Maher MLC	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
5/1/2023	Hon Glenn Butcher MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Floodplain Harvesting Volume Cap
9/1/2023	Hon Glenn Butcher MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Ownership and access to water for Cultural and Economic purposes for the Basin's Indigenous Nations
12/1/2023	Hon Susan Close MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Ownership and access to water for Cultural and Economic purposes for the Basin's Indigenous Nations MDA 2022 Motions – Exploring the potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge
18/1/2023	A/g Branch Head Lachlan Simpson, National Water Grid Authority and Water Infrastructure	MDA 2022 Motions – Benefit Cost Ratio Requirements
19/1/2023	Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	MDA 2022 Motions – NSW Water Resource Plans
24/1/2023	Hon Kevin Anderson MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Ownership and access to water for Cultural and Economic purposes for the Basin's Indigenous Nations
2/2/2023	Gabrielle Williams MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Greater First Nations Involvement
2/2/2023	Hon Kevin Anderson MP	MDA 2022 Motions – Exploring the potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge

## 5.2 Outgoing

### Refer to Attachment 5.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
9/12/2022	MDBA – Andrew Reynolds, Executive Director (River Management)	Letter of Thanks
19/12/2022	South Australia Mayors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Anne Monceaux</li> <li>• Mayor Jane-Claire Wisdom</li> <li>• Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM</li> <li>• Mayor Mark Wasley</li> <li>• Mayor Keith Parkes</li> <li>• Mayor Jill Whittaker</li> <li>• Mayor Leonie Kerley</li> <li>• Mayor Ella Winnall</li> <li>• Mayor Angela Evans</li> <li>• Mayor Allan Aughey OAM</li> </ul>	Letter of Congratulations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Paul Simmons</li> <li>• Mayor Roslyn Talbot</li> <li>• Mayor Karen Redman</li> <li>• Mayor Bill Gebhardt</li> <li>• Mayor Amanda Wilson</li> <li>• Mayor Caroline Phillips</li> <li>• Deputy Mayor Jeff Pope</li> <li>• Mayor Bill O'Brien</li> <li>• Mayor Trevor Norton</li> <li>• Mayor Kris Hanna</li> <li>• Mayor Simone Bailey</li> <li>• Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross</li> <li>• Mayor David Leach</li> <li>• Mayor Stephen McCarthy</li> <li>• Mayor Wayne Thorley</li> <li>• Mayor Sue Scarman</li> <li>• Mayor Robert Bria</li> <li>• Mayor Moira Were AM</li> <li>• Mayor Kathie Bowman</li> <li>• Mayor Ruth Whittle OAM</li> <li>• Mayor Glenn Docherty</li> <li>• Mayor Linley Shine</li> <li>• Mayor Leon Stephens</li> <li>• Mayor Matt Larwood</li> <li>• Mayor Peter Hunter</li> <li>• Mayor Gillian Aldridge OAM</li> <li>• Mayor Ron Valentine</li> <li>• Mayor Liz Goossens</li> <li>• Mayor Marijka Ryan</li> <li>• Mayor Michael Hewitson AM</li> <li>• Mayor Moira Jenkins</li> <li>• Mayor Rodney Reid</li> <li>• Mayor Melissa Jones</li> <li>• Mayor Michael Coxon</li> <li>• Mayor Phill Stone</li> <li>• Mayor Darryl Houston</li> <li>• Mayor Darren Braund</li> </ul>	
21/12/2022	Danniele Worden – Senior Governance Project Officer, City of Port Adelaide Enfield	Withdrawal of Membership

**Recommendation:**  
**That the correspondence be received and noted.**

*[P George joined 9:46am]*

## 6. Business Arising

### 6.1 Board Resolution Register

Board to review the motions and actions completed.

**Refer to Attachments 6.1.1 and 6.1.2**

**Recommendation:**  
**That the report be noted.**

## 7. General Business

### 7.1 Membership and Engagement

The CEO will provide an update on recent membership and engagement activities.

M Lamb noted that MDA Membership was an ongoing work in progress, noted the return of a past member in Tamworth Shire Council, indicated it was great to have such a significant council of the Northern Basin as a member.

M Lamb noted that the MDA was looking to reinvigorate Region 8 and had been working with Region 6 on an approach towards less active councils.

M Lamb indicated that he would be reaching out to Region Chairs, willing to come out and meet with Councils.

- D Thurley noted that some of the work the MDA had achieved in the last 12 months could be beneficial in developing a favourable approach towards membership for Wangaratta and Benalla.
- G Dobson noted that the MDA was such a wide organisation, indicated that disjointedness of councils was one of the difficulties M Lamb had to face. G Dobson suggested that a few Region Chairs could band together, engage in 'mini-meetings' and invite non-member councils to attend, connect and discuss. Indicated that this could be beneficial to developing ties and relationships.
- G Andrezza requested a list of councils from Region 9 identifying Member, and non-member councils.

#### **ACTION:**

**Tim Phillips to send Cr Glen Andrezza a list of Region 9 Member and Non-Member Councils.**

- A Tilley supported the comments, indicated that it was a critical time in the region. Noted that it was a big job, and needed consistent engagement with the MDA and councillors to ensure that they see a maintained relevance. Noted that he would like to hear from Region 5 regarding water.
- A Kassebaum noted that they were in a recovery phase, with water having exceeded heights from what authorities thought it would reach. Noted that at the height of the flood, weirpool 3 was higher than the lake itself. Noted that the lake was now receding. A Kassebaum indicated that below Lock 2 was where the most damage was noted. Indicated that it would take years, if not decades to recover.
  - D Thurley noted that this is likely the same story from across the Basin.
- M Rebbeck noted that the floods affected Region 6 as well, potentially good to look at the left over damage when delegates come to the region for the 2023 National Conference. Noted that there were dead fish along hundreds of metres of coastline, shacks damaged. Queried what the MDA could do to support regions in flood, what could the MDA do/do better? Indicated that this was a time where the MDA should come together. Queried what the MDA can do to support its regions in recovering from flood damage? Suggested that each council could share their recovery efforts, include as a future Agenda item. Noted that Senior Members of Council were exhausted looking after their communities, what can the MDA do to help? M Rebbeck indicated that this Board Meeting would be her last as Region 6 Chair.
  - D Thurley noted his support, indicated that meetings such as MinCo were a way to convey the efforts and needed support to Federal and State Government



**ACTION:**

**Flood Recovery to be included as an ongoing Agenda Item for future MDA Board Meetings.**

M Lamb noted J Chaffey's suggestion regarding a Northern Basin Forum, an opportunity to talk about issues that impact the northern Basin.

- G Sauer (Region 11 Proxy) noted that J Chaffey was very keen to get the Northern Basin Forum up and running. Noted that Tamworth was also very keen to get a framework up and running. G Sauer suggested that other regions of the Basin could undertake a similar forum and network among the different forums.
- C Davies noted his support for G Sauer's comments, noted that J Chaffey was making level best efforts to get this together. Indicated that they would be able to confirm dates shortly. C Davies noted that there were developments on a Federal level that the MDA could be involved in.

D Thurley proposed a vote of thanks to M Rebbeck. Indicated that she had been a very active member of the MDA Board and Region 6, and thanked her for her efforts and dedication and wished her all the best.

**ACTION:**

**That the Murray Darling Association write Melissa Rebbeck a letter of thanks for her efforts and dedication in the role of Region 6 Chair.**

## 7.2 Reports for Delegates

The report is provided for noting.

Refer to Attachment 7.2

## 8. Meeting Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:20am.