

MDA Membership Policy

2019



Membership Policy

This is to be read in conjunction with the Murray Darling Association (MDA), [Constitution](#).

1. Eligibility for Membership:

The board of the MDA may consider applications for membership from the following:

- (a) Any Council who is located within a Region
- (b) Any Organisation, which is located within a Region
- (c) Any Individual living in a Region
- (d) Any Council/Organisation/Person who is located within Australia

This policy shall be read subject to clause 6 of the MDA constitution.

Whether an individual or organisation's membership application (or renewal) is accepted is at the sole discretion of the board.

A serving councillor of a local government entity or a member of a Member organisation must not apply to become an Individual Member or allow an Organisation to apply for membership with that councillor proposed as the Organisation Representative.

1.1 Categories of membership

Members of MDA may be classified as follows:

- (a) A **Member Council** is a local government municipal entity which has satisfied and maintains the requirements for membership of the MDA.
- (b) An **Organisation Member** is a company, corporation, association, body corporate, partnership, government or statutory authority, community service or not for profit organisation or other legal body (other than a Member Council) accepted as a member.
- (c) A **Life Member** is as identified in the MDA Constitution or elected as a Life Member. The Murray Darling Association, in its sole discretion, can award life membership to any member who they deem is deserving of life membership. Life members have all the benefits of an individual member and do not pay a membership fee.
- (d) An **Individual Member** is a person living in a Region who is a current Member.

Individual members must not use their membership status with the MDA to promote any business or third party which they are employed by, associated with or have a pecuniary interest in.

The board shall determine any disputes as to the appropriate classification of membership status and its decision is final.

1.2 Types of membership

- (a) Region Member
Any Council/Organisation/Person who is living or is located within a Region
- (b) Member at Large
Any Council/Organisation/Person who is living or is located outside of a Region

2. Member Benefits

The board, in its sole discretion, may approve different benefits and structures for the different types of membership and these benefits may vary from time to time. Benefits will be updated and maintained on the MDA website or otherwise informed to members in writing.

The board, in its sole discretion, may also approve or make available different benefit/s for different profiles of members, including select groups of members within a particular type of membership from time to time. For example; a) those members who hold a particular role within local government, b) members who may be employed by private corporations as opposed to government entities, and c) vice versa.

Membership benefits include:

- (a) Regional & National representation of local priorities
- (b) Strong regional networks supporting local economic development and leadership initiatives
- (c) Effective representation of local government and your communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources
- (d) entitlement to attend, contribute to and vote at a region meeting (as defined in reference)
- (e) entitlement to attend, contribute to, debate and vote at an MDA Meeting

2.1 Board directors, committees and member network committee members

(1) The Board will comprise each of the chairs of the Regions of the MDA existing from time to time.

(2) On an annual basis, at a board meeting, the Board will elect:

- (a) a President;
- (b) a Vice President; and
- (c) a Treasurer

to serve for the financial year.

2.2 Voting rights

Voting at a meeting of the association is associated with meeting type, membership categories and the number of representatives.

The voting rights for Region meetings are as follows:

(1) A **Member Council** has category rights to:

(a) appoint 2 Representatives, plus an additional Representative for every 20,000 of population (or part thereof) of the municipality above the first 20,000, up to a further 3, for a maximum total of 5 representatives.

(b) Each representative has the right to attend, participate and vote on its behalf at a Region meeting.

(2) An **Organisation Member** has category rights to:

- (a) appoint a Representative for a Region Meeting
 - (b) have its Representative attend, participate and vote on its behalf at a Region Meeting
 - (c) have its Representative be eligible for election by a Region as a region Delegate.
- (3) A **Life Member** has category rights to attend, participate and vote at a Region Meeting
- (4) An **Individual Member** has category rights to:
- (a) attend, participate and vote at a Region Meeting, and
 - (b) to be eligible for election as a Region Delegate.

The Voting, and Category rights for the MDA Meeting are:

- (1) A **Member Council** has category rights to
- (a) appoint 1 Member Council Delegate, plus an additional Delegate for every 20,000 (or part thereof) of population of the municipality above the first 20,000, up to a further 2, for a maximum total of 3 Member Council Delegates
 - (b) to have its Delegate(s) attend, participate and vote on its behalf at a MDA Meeting
- (2) An **Organisation Member** has category rights to
- (a) have its representative attend and participate at a MDA meeting
 - (b) if its Representative is elected as a region Delegate, to vote as a Region Delegate at the MDA meeting
- (3) A **Life Member** has category rights to attend, participate and vote at a MDA meeting as a Life Member.
- (4) An Individual Member has category rights to
- (a) attend and participate at a MDA Meeting, and
 - (b) if elected as a Region Delegate, to vote as the Region Delegate at a MDA Meeting

3. Membership Fees

The MDA Membership fees will:

- (a) be determined by the board of directors from time to time.
- (b) Each class and category of membership may have its own fee structure.
- (c) be charged on a pro-rata basis based upon the date of admission to membership.

4. Payment options

Annual fees may be paid by MasterCard or Visa, direct debit, cheque or cash.

The MDA reserves the right to change and/or add any payment options made available to members at any time.

5. Financial Members

(a) Only fully financial members of the MDA may, subject to clause 2 of this policy, access member benefits. The MDA retains the right to suspend access to benefits until the membership fee/s are paid in full.

(b) The annual subscription renewal date is 1 July of each year.

6. Cessation of Membership:

A Member ceases to be a Member of the MDA if:

- (a) for Individual Members and Organisation Members, the Member annual fee is overdue for more than 90 days and the Board ends the membership,
- (b) for Member Councils, the annual fee remains unpaid after the failure to pay has been raised at a MDA meeting and the meeting decides to end the membership;
- (c) in the case of an individual – dies or is declared bankrupt, or
- (d) the Board resolves to end the membership;
- (e) the Member resigns membership,
- (f) the Member is expelled from the MDA in accordance with clause 28 of the MDA Constitution, or
- (g) ceases to be eligible to be a Member, or
- (h) in the case of an organisation – is insolvent, or is being wound up or deregistered, or has a receiver, administrator, manager, liquidator or other controller (howsoever described) appointed over the organisation or a substantial part of its assets.

7. Amendments to this Policy

The board is entitled to amend this membership policy from time to time which will have effect no earlier than twenty eight (28) days following notice to members of the proposed amendments. Notice will be taken to be given where the amended membership policy is published on the Murray Darling Association's website.

Definitions:

A **Region meeting** is a meeting of the Member Councils of a region usually held quarterly.

An **MDA meeting** is a meeting of all attending Members of the MDA, usually referred to as the National Conference and AGM.

Original Issue Date: