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MEDIA RELEASE

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Basin Communities Leadership Program is coming to Rochester

After more than a year of delays due to COVID-19, the Basin Communities Leadership Program is finally coming to Rochester. The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is calling for applications from emerging community leaders across the region to participate in the MDA's inaugural Basin Communities Leadership Program (BCLP).

This program is a unique and exciting opportunity for established and emerging leaders develop their leadership skills, collaborate with peers and mentors, and identify community initiatives that lead to stronger Basin communities.

The leadership program will be delivered through a mixed method delivery model, including online modules through the MDA Learning Academy, a 2-day 'face-to-face' workshop, and paid registration to the MDA's 78th National Conference in Albury next year.

The MDA Learning Academy provides a range of carefully selected leadership modules, including a unique water literacy framework to create a bespoke learning experience for participants.

Reflecting on his experience on the program earlier this year in St George property manager John Scriven found he had gained new insight into his own leadership style and built on his knowledge of the Basin communities. "It helped me get a more balanced understanding of the upper river network. Being a Northern Basin person, I also gained a fuller awareness of the southern parts of the Basin."

"The networking was really good. It introduced me to a lot of great leaders."

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For comment, contact Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or e.bradbury@mda.asn.au

The program has been described as genuinely transformative, with participants building their networks and provided with the means to speak their truth to power at the national level.

Graduates from the Cunnamulla BCLP workshop also travelled to the MDA's 77th National Conference at Wentworth this year as part of the program. Their amazing leadership resulted in a national resolution for the MDA to support a process to achieve greater representation of First Nations people in local government and water policy. The motion was put to conference by Cr Greg James, a Yorta Yorta man and councilor with the City of Greater Shepparton, the Basin scale networks and outcomes from this program.

Commenting on the program last year The Hon. Michael McCormack MP noted the importance of finding the next generation of people who are going to take the issue of water security, water management and resources forward.

“We need those young people, and some not so young, to be able to stand up and to say what they need to say and have the courage of their convictions to make sure they understand the complex and complicated water resources, to clearly articulate what they mean in the national space, but for local outcomes.”

Funded under the Commonwealth Community Investment Package and valued at \$4,800 per person, places on the program are available at no cost to the participants but their time.

The BCLP workshop will be held on 20 – 21 September at the Rochester Racecourse Recreational Reserve, after which local leaders will have the opportunity to continue their leadership journey with a registration to the 2022 National Conference in Albury included in the enrolment. Participants can apply their learnings by continuing their project, with access to coaching and mentoring along the way.

REGISTER NOW: <https://bit.ly/3gbb8YX> , or FIND OUT MORE: <https://bit.ly/2UsLLdt>

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