



# Board Meeting 412 MINUTES

**26 November 2021**

Murray Darling Association Incorporated  
ABN 64 636 490 493

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## Meeting Commencement Time

9:30am

## Zoom Meeting Log in Details

[ZOOM LINK](#) (Meeting ID **867 8794 9686**, log in details are also included the diary appointment)

## 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	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Region 2
Vacant		Region 3
Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Vacant		Region 8
Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council	Region 9
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Council	Region 10A
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Peter George	M&S Group	Interim Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO (outgoing)
Mark Lamb	MDA	CEO (incoming)

### 2.2 Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12

#### MOTION

*(Cr Glen Andrezza / Cr Melissa Rebbeck)*

**That the apologies be received and noted.**

**CARRIED**

### 2.3 Declarations

### 2.4 Welcome

Welcome to Cr Geoff Dobson and Mayor Jamie Chaffey.

Acknowledgement of outgoing Chairs, Cr Bronwyn Thomas and Cr John Campbell

### 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

#### MOTION

*(Cr John Campbell / Cr Craig Davies)*

That the minutes of [MDA Board Meeting 411](#) held on 18 October 2021 be accepted as an accurate record. **CARRIED**

### 4. Reports

#### 4.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair provided a verbal report, noting that the recent rainfall, totalling to 50mm over the last few days, has been adding to the already full flowing river around Albury-Wodonga and delaying crop harvest in the region. The Chair indicated he has put his hat in the ring in the upcoming NSW elections and noted that, should his re-election be unsuccessful he would continue to be available for contact as immediate past chair.

#### MOTION

*(Cr Glen Andreazza / Cr Craig Davies)*

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

#### 4.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO provided her report for noting.

The CEO provided an update on the recurrent funding campaign and the meeting with the national Water Infrastructure Authority.

**Refer to Attachment 3.2**

#### MOTION

*(Cr Glen Andreazza / Cr Craig Davies)*

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

----- [Mayor Jamie Chaffey entered 9:50am] -----

----- [Pete George entered 9:58am] -----

#### 4.3 Finance Reports

Reports are provided for October 2021.

**Refer to Attachment 3.3**

#### MOTION

*(Cr Glen Andreazza / Cr Craig Davies)*

----- [Cr Andrew Tilley entered 10:05am] -----

## 5. Correspondence

### 5.1 Incoming

#### Refer to Attachment 4.1

Date	Received From	Subject
4/11/21	Nathan Bicknell – Alexandrina Council	MDA Region 6 – Symposium Event Overview
8/11/21	Office Manager to the Minister for Trade and Investment	AGM 5.3 – Carp Mitigation

### 5.2 Outgoing

#### Refer to Attachment 4.2

Date	Issued to	Subject
Confidential		
25/10/21	The Hon Minister Pavey MP Senator Perin Davey	Budget Submission
26/10/2021	Hilton Taylor – CEWO Phillip Glyde – MDBA Steve Cox – DestinationNSW Phillipa Harrison – Tourism Australia Rodney Harrex – Adelaide South Australia Daniel Gschwind – Tourism Queensland	AGM 5.1 – Recreational Water
27/10/21	Mr Nick McBride – Member for MacKillop And others – all regions	MDA Pre-Budget Campaign
1/11/21	NSW Government	Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan
4/11/21	<b>Commonwealth Government</b> The Hon Trevor Evans MP The Hon Nola Marino MP The Hon Kevin Hogan MP The Hon Sussan Ley MP The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP The Hon David Littleproud MP The Hon Dan Tehan MP The Hon Keith Pitt MP The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP	AGM 5.3 – Carp Mitigation
4/11/21	<b>State Governments</b> The Hon Adam John Marshall MP The Hon Melinda Jane Pavey MP The Hon Robert Gordon Stokes MP Mrs Deborah Frecklington Hon Glenn Butcher David Basham MP Hon David Speirs MP Stephen Patterson MP The Hon Lisa Neville The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas Tim Pallas	AGM 5.3 – Carp Mitigation

**MOTION**

*(Cr Melissa Rebbeck / Cr Craig Davies)*

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

**CARRIED**

## **6. Business Arising**

### **6.1 Board Resolution Register**

The Board reviewed the motions and actions completed.

**Refer to Attachment 5.1**

**MOTION**

*(Cr Glen Andreazza / Cr David Thurley)*

**That the Board Resolution Register report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

*Board queries:*

Cr Melissa Rebbeck asked that AGM Motion 5.12 Carbon Neutral by 2050 be marked as ongoing.

### **6.2 Project Funding Applications Update**

Board to review the project funding applications update. Standing agenda item.

**Refer to Attachment 5.2**

**MOTION**

*(Cr Melissa Rebbeck / Cr Glen Andreazza)*

**That the Project Funding Applications update be noted.**

**CARRIED**

## **7. General Business**

### **7.1 Appointment of CEO and public officer**

The MDA has appointed Mark Lamb to the position of CEO, with the appointment completed and contract signed. Mark started the handover on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and will commence in the role 1 December 2021, with Emma vacating the role of CEO and Public Officer COB 30 November 2021.

As an association incorporated under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009 this triggers a number of reporting obligations. Our obligations include notification of any changes to public officer, constitution, and address, in addition to the reporting and lodgement of audited financial statements.

In preparation of the handover to the new CEO, a full compliance audit of these reporting obligations has been undertaken. A detailed extract of the MDA's register of documents lodged

shows the current status of the association, and full compliance with our reporting obligations. A copy of that extract is attached for noting.

**Resolved by flying minute 23/11/2021**

That the board confirm the appointment of Mark Lamb to the positions of Chief Executive Officer, and Public Officer with full authority to act on behalf of the Murray Darling Association Incorporated.

**D Thurley / C Davies**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION**

**(Cr Craig Davies / Cr Glen Andreazza)**

That the board ratify the flying minute and note the Association Extract - New South Wales. **CARRIED**

**Action:** That notice of the relevant changes is provided to the Office of Fair Trading on a [Form A9 - Notice of appointment of public officer and Notice of change of association address](#).

## **7.2 Delegation of Authority Policy**

The policy to provide guidelines for the delegation of duties and authorities to the Chief Executive Officer for the operational management of the Murray Darling Association has not been reviewed since 2014.

**MOTION**

**(Cr Geoff Dobson / Cr Glen Andreazza)**

**That the board affirm the Delegation of Authority Policy. CARRIED**

## **7.3 Annual Strategic Planning Workshop**

See draft flyer attached – for discussion. Consideration of invitations.

Emma noted that she and Tim Phillips had begun preliminary work in preparing the Annual Strategic Planning Workshop scheduled to be held in Canberra, 21-24 February 2022, and acknowledged the work done by Tim during the transition period following a reduction in MDA staff as well as throughout the COVID pandemic.

Emma indicated that the MDBA had invited the MDA to use their Board Meeting Room for the Strategic Planning Workshop.

Noting the decision to cap attendees at 30 persons, Emma queried whether there were specific people the MDA would like to attend the workshop, adverting that the MDA Board members and Strategic Advisory Committee would be invited to attend. Cr Craig Davies questioned whether the MDA should invite politicians and heads of departments to attend and address the group, with Cr Melissa Rebbeck suggesting an invitation to be sent to the Prime Minister or the Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture.

## **MOTION**

*(Cr David Thurley / Cr Glen Andrezza)*

**That the MDA continue preparations to hold the 2022 Annual Strategic Planning Workshop in Canberra in February.** **CARRIED**

### **7.4 MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program**

Emma suggested that the Basin Communities Leadership Program remain a standing item until the program's completion.

Outlining the current rollout, Emma noted that the Leadership Program had been successfully delivered across the Northern, and parts of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin, with 6 workshops remaining in Victoria and South Australia:

- Rochester, VIC
- Mildura, VIC
- Cobdogla, Berri-Barmera, SA
- Lower Lakes, SA
- Loxton, SA
- Swan Reach, SA

Emma noted ongoing conversations with the department regarding transitioning the Leadership Program to online delivery, indicating that, should this occur, the Program would no longer be a valuable product.

### **7.5 Membership and Engagement**

The CEO provided an update on recent membership and engagement activities.

#### **7.4.1 Region meetings – 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 11.**

Cr Craig Davies noted that councils in Region 10A have formed an organisation called the Alliance for Western Councils, which held a recent meeting where Cr Davies gave a brief outline of what the MDA does in the Murray-Darling Basin.

- Craig queried whether the MDA could produce a compact version of the MDA Board meetings, much alike to the monthly Delegates Report, that can be distributed to councils every three months.
- Cr David Thurley indicated that the Delegates Report partially serves this purpose and noted the benefit to distributing the report to all members and regions, with Cr Andrew Tilley emphasising that the announcement, wording, and message presented is integral in creating a package that promotes the MDA to councils that are undecided on joining the Association.

Cr Glen Andrezza indicated that the Griffith City Council Mayor, John Dal Broi will be stepping down from the role. Cr Andrezza queried whether the MDA should send the Mayor a letter congratulating him on his years of service and support.

## **MOTION**

*(Cr Andrew Tilley / Cr Craig Davies)*

**That the MDA write to Emeritus Mayor John Dal Broi in acknowledgment of his service, and support of the MDA and its policies and values.** **CARRIED**



#### 7.4.2 Minister Melinda Pavey MP – MSW Minister for Water

On Wednesday David, Emma, and Mark met with Minister Pavey. A number of topics were discussed, including the Ministers achievements in developing stronger relationships with her counterparts in SA and Victoria, revision of the SDL projects to better reflect local knowledge and input, and recognition of the improved status and management of the Menindee Lakes.

The Minister noted that she is committed to the water reforms and obligations of the state under the Basin Plan and is keen to retain the portfolio in the upcoming reshuffle. David commended the Minister on much of her work and highlighted that while there's more to be done, our members are keen to see stability and strong leadership.

SA chairs indicated they would be keen to touch base with Minister Speirs's office to seek their perspective.

General discussion reflected that such endorsement recognised that there is further work to be done by NSW however a broad commitment to consistency and continuity

#### **MOTION**

*(Cr David Thurley / Cr Geoff Dobson)*

**That the MDA write to the NSW Premier and Deputy Premier acknowledging the work of Minister Pavey and urging continuity and consistency in the Portfolio to ensure confidence and stability for Basin communities.** **CARRIED**

### 7.6 Reports for Delegates

The report is provided for noting.

The Board noted their contentment with the quality of the Delegates Report.

The CEO provided an outline for how the Board members are to use the Delegates Report to advertise and promote the progress and achievements of the MDA.

**Refer to Attachment 6.4**

#### **MOTION**

*(Cr Andrew Tilley / Cr John Campbell)*

**That the Report for Delegates be noted.** **CARRIED**

## 8. National Conference

### 8.1 Draft AGM Motions

Emma noted, while currently no motions have been brought forth, that Draft AGM Motions should continue to be a standing item until the 2022 AGM as it sets the MDA agenda for the year ahead.

**Refer to Attachment 7.1**

## 9. Meeting Schedule

Emma queried whether the current schedule of the third Monday of every month remains suitable for Board members to attend.

- Cr Rebbeck noted a tight schedule as Alexandrina council holds meetings on the same day.

Incoming CEO Mark Lamb addressed the upcoming Board meeting on 20 December, suggesting that the Board meet instead in January.

- Mayor Chaffey indicated that both December and January are difficult months to schedule a meeting in, while Cr Rebbeck emphasised that, for continuity and communication, the Board should meet in January at the very least.
- Emma recommended scheduling a Committee of Regional Chairs meeting for January, and aligning the Board meeting with the Strategic Planning Workshop in Canberra in February.

Cr Thurley noted that a rough draft of the meeting schedule would be distributed to the Board for comment.

## 10. Meeting Close

The Chair to declare the meeting closed at 11:25am.