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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, August 16, 2018

Call for Goulburn River flows assessment

THE Murray Darling Association has welcomed the City of Greater Shepparton's decision to propose a motion that will be debated at this month's 74th National Conference.

The motion calls on Water Ministers, Water Authorities, Catchment Management Authorities and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to undertake a detailed and wholistic review of the environmental impacts of the practice of running commercial water down the Goulburn River during summer periods.

In February 2018 the Goulburn River rose approximately 1.5 meters above its normal summer level, remaining at this height for around two months, destroying all the ground cover that had benefited from an environmental flow during spring 2017.

The river was artificially held high in these summer months due to the transfer of water to other irrigation areas following purchasing of this water, raising concerns about river bank erosion.

The motion is one of 18 to be considered at the Murray Darling Association's Annual General Meeting, occurring on Thursday, August 30 at the Leeton Soldiers Club.

Other items that will be discussed include renewable energy, the National Carp Control Plan, flows at Barmah Choke, socio-economic neutrality and the take and use of water for bottling.

The AGM agenda and full details of the motions can be downloaded at [http://www.mda.asn.au/source/ckfinder/files/MDA%202018%20AGM%20Agenda%20and%20meeting%20papers\(1\).pdf](http://www.mda.asn.au/source/ckfinder/files/MDA%202018%20AGM%20Agenda%20and%20meeting%20papers(1).pdf)

The Annual General Meeting will follow the Murray Darling Association's 74th National Conference, themed Trust. Unity. Equity GROWTH, an event featuring presentations from Australia's biggest irrigators to the newly appointed NSW Chief Regulatory Officer, Grant Barnes.

The three-day program includes presentations from industry leaders, decision makers and authorities who play a key role in Basin management.

Those wanting to attend the conference can register online at www.mda.asn.au or phone the association's headquarters on (03) 5480 3805.

ENDS

For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017.