



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MDA appoints strong new leadership team for year ahead

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The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin, has appointed an experienced and capable leadership team for the year ahead.

The leadership team includes Cr David Thurley continuing as national president, Cr Phyllis Miller as vice president, Cr Jane MacAllister as deputy vice president and Pete George as treasurer.

Cr David Thurley, a councillor with Albury City Council, was elected unopposed and reinstated as the peak body's National President.

"Basin communities currently face many challenges, particularly around changing water availability and the many social, economic and environmental issues that come with it," Cr Thurley said.

"These are challenging times, but the MDA continues to provide a platform for communities across the Basin to work together, increase Basin literacy and work on solutions," Cr Thurley said.

Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor of Forbes Shire Council, was elected as MDA vice president, bringing with her a wealth of experience in local government, environment and regional/rural communities.

Cr Jane MacAllister, a councillor with Wentworth Shire Council and the MDA's deputy vice president, said she was very humbled to be elected along with such well respected and highly regarded leaders, at this pivotal juncture in water management and policy across the Murray Darling Basin.

"I know we will work well together to respectfully advocate and proactively seek to unite and educate through local government, while supporting communities under extreme stress," Cr MacAllister said.

"The role of local Councils is becoming more active through engagement with agencies, responsibly increasing water literacy and understanding of complex issues throughout communities and informing policy through submissions, while (in NSW) also acting as water utilities, providing critical human water needs where state government cannot, due to supply issues and scarcity."

Pete George was appointed Treasurer in April 2017 and will continue in this role, bringing immense professional skills as a Partner and Associate of M+S Accounting.

"To be truly effective, a board needs the right group of people, with an appropriate mix of skills, knowledge and experience that fits with the organisation's objectives and strategic goals," said CEO Emma Bradbury.

"I am incredibly excited to be working with this leadership team in the year ahead, and value their stability, leadership, knowledge and experience greatly – both individually and as a leadership group."

*For more information, contact MDA CEO Emma Bradbury on (03) 5480 3805*