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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Murray River Council hits the ground running

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THE Murray Darling Association has welcomed Murray River Council's decision to propose two motions that will be debated at next month's 74<sup>th</sup> National Conference.

The motions relate to the role of the Barmah Choke in the implementation of the Basin Plan and, calling for an agreed definition of socioeconomic neutrality that is consistent with Commonwealth guidelines on socioeconomic impact assessment.

Murray River Council assumed leadership of Region 3 with delegate Cr Alan Mathers appointed to the National board in June this year. The region has struggled to attract membership in recent years, provoking complaints of benefits flowing more strongly to other areas.

"We are delighted to see Murray River Council's leadership already elevating local priorities to the national level," MDA Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury said. "These motions represent significant issues for this region, and their presentation at the AGM will provide national recognition."

Cr Mathers was pleased with the outcome of yesterday's council meeting.

"I knew when I took on this job it would not be an easy one. Our region has a lot of work to do to ensure our voice is heard. I am committed to building our region's membership, and to working with the MDA to progress the issues that will see benefits flow equally in the management of Basin resources," he said.

The MDA acknowledged Murray River Council's decision to reject an invitation for the council's general manager, Des Bilske to take a position on the inaugural Murray Darling Association Strategic Advisory Group.

"While we are disappointed not to have the benefit of Mr Bilske's expertise on the committee at this time, we recognise that with a newly merged council taking in one of the largest and most diverse footprints in NSW, council's priority must be on the shire." Ms Bradbury said.

ENDS

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