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MEDIA RELEASE

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Nod given to local government engagement

A PACKED program considering a range of nationally significant issues will be presented later this month when the Murray Darling Association holds its 74th National Conference and Annual General Meeting at Leeton, New South Wales.

Two days of presentations and interactions with industry leaders, decision makers and authorities who play a key role in Basin management will conclude on Thursday, August 30 with an address from the Productivity Commission on the eagerly awaited Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment draft report.

Under the *Water Act 2007 (Commonwealth)*, the Commission is required to undertake five-yearly assessments of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basin Plan and water resource plans. This inquiry is the first such assessment to be conducted since the legislating of the Basin Plan in 2012.

With the eagerly anticipated report to be presented at the conference, this is seen as a major nod to the Murray Darling Association, and recognition of the value state and federal agencies place in their engagement with local government through the MDA.

The Murray Darling Association's 74th Annual General Meeting will follow the conference, with 18 motions to be debated.

Topics to be debated range from defining socio-economic neutrality in the context of the Basin Plan, renewable energy, water management, the National Carp Control Plan, upgrading weir infrastructure, climate vulnerability modelling 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)

Those wanting to attend the conference can still 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.