



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Local government to deliberate key Basin challenges and opportunities at 75<sup>th</sup> National Conference

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Representatives from more than 100 councils located within the Basin will meet in October at the Murray Darling Association's 75<sup>th</sup> National Conference to discuss the challenges and opportunities of intensifying agriculture sustainably.

The Annual Conference will be held in Toowoomba, only the second time ever to be held in Queensland within the organisation's 75 year rich and diverse history.

This conference will focus on how councils and local government can play a critical role in supporting regional growth, economic development and agricultural productivity, sustainably.

"Councils and government across Australia must work hard to ensure we have the balance right. Regeneration of the land and river systems will ensure our regions survive, adapt and prosper," said MDA National President David Thurley.

"Working together we can nurture the leadership, drive the initiative, and build the capacity to ensure regeneration for a healthy basin."

Conference presenters include experts from industry, government and community organisations, who are all playing a critical role in shaping the future of Australia.

Murray-Darling Basin Inspector-General Mr Mick Keelty will deliver the opening address, followed by a keynote speech by Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Leader (Beef) from the World Wildlife Fund.

Conference delegates will be treated to a Civic Reception on the Tuesday night at the spectacular newly refurbished Toowoomba Railway Goods Shed, and a fully guided regional tour on the Thursday through innovative farm enterprises and regional connectivity and engagement across one of the most connected regions in the nation.

Registrations for the event are now open.

Those wanting to attend the conference can register online at [www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au).

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For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 03 5480 3805