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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## MDA leadership team reinstated for the year ahead

The peak body for local government in the Murray-Darling Basin has reappointed its leadership team for the year ahead.

All three office-bearers were returned unopposed to their roles at the Murray Darling Association's most recent Board meeting, with Cr David Thurley reinstated as National President, Cr Barry Featherston as National Vice President and Pete George as Treasurer.

Cr Thurley, a councillor with Albury City Council and a retired environmental research scientist, has been National President since 2015.

"I appreciate the confidence shown in me by the other Board members and I look forward to working with a great team," Cr Thurley said.

"We face lots of challenges, but the MDA has shown stability and strength and provided great representation for communities across the Basin. I look forward to another year of achievements."

Cr Featherston has also held his role since 2015, bringing significant experience in business, the private sector and local government, including 15 years as a councillor with Alexandrina Council.

"During the next 12 months the MDA will continue to seek maximum economic and community benefit from Murray-Darling Basin resources while protecting our environment," Cr Featherston said.

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

"Membership of the MDA is very minimal relative to the influence it has, so it is a very affordable proposition for Basin councils," Mr George said.

MDA CEO Emma Bradbury said the continuity of leadership reflected a period of immense stability, productivity and growth for the organisation.

"The current board and leadership team has proven extremely effective, applying the highest standards of good governance and effective leadership, ensuring the MDA has never been better placed to represent the interests of its member councils at the state and national level," she said.

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For more information, contact MDA CEO Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017, Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274, Cr Barry Featherston on 0417 808 565, or Pete George on 0407 874 007.