



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Ordinary Meeting of the Board
Monday 25th March 10.00am
<https://zoom.us/j/7555472561>

MINUTES - MEETING No. 384

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield*	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom**	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Pete George***	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO
Cr David Pollard (Guest)	Buloke Shire Council	Region 3

* - Joined at 10:25

** - Joined at 10:15

*** - Joined at 10:33

1.2 Apologies

Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Shire Council	Region 10

Motion: That the apologies are accepted.
D Clarke/A Tilley

Carried

1.3 Declarations

Nil.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 [Meeting 383](#) held Friday 1st Feb 2019 Moama Bowling Club, 6 Shaw St, MOAMA

Amendment to motion 4.1.2

Motion 4.1.2 – That the MDA note the appointment of

i) Cr Andrew Tilley, City of Mitcham Council to the position of *Interim Chair of Region 7, pending confirmation by election at a region meeting* and

ii) Cr Craig Davies, Mayor of Narromine Shire Council to the position of *Interim Chair of Region 10 pending confirmation by election at a region meeting.*

Motion: That the minutes of board meeting 383, as amended be adopted.

P Maytom/ M Rebbeck

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's report

See region reports

3.2 Finance reports

January attached

February attached

3.3 Chief Executive Officer's report

Attached

3.4 Region reports

Region 1 Attached Region 6 Attached

Region 7 Attached

Region 11 Attached

Motion: That the reports are noted.

P Maytom/ M Rebbeck

Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 **Flying minutes**

4.1.1 That the MDA

i) approve the sale of enough water to fund the engagement of a tender writer, and an executive assistant consistent with previous board discussions, and

ii) request a detailed report on finance and resource implications at the next board meeting and prior to the finalisation of the appointment of the Executive Assistant.

4.1.2 That the board of the MDA

a) Notes the MDA Business Case 2019 seeking Commonwealth funding to invest in the services provided by the MDA in the order of almost 5million dollars over 4 years to deliver confidence and trust in the remaining implementation of the Basin Plan

b) Authorizes the CEO to engage appropriate sponsors to secure the proposed funding

c) Encourages member councils to lobby their state and federal MPs to support the proposal.

Motion: That the board note items 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 resolved by flying minute.

It was noted that Tender Right was engaged to assist in the preparation and submission of a grant application to the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program – Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program (see item 5.2), and in the initial drafting of the Funding Proposal: Delivering confidence and trust in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2019 -2024. (see item 7.1).

10 meg of water entitlement being the full complement of the NSW access entitlement has been sold.

4.2 Motion 384 – 4.2.1: Expansion of irrigation dependent industries

MDA wrote to NSW Premier The Hon Gladys Berejiklian (attached)

Letter tabled at NRAR board meeting to assist them in identifying specific projects that may contribute to a high likelihood of non-compliance occurring in the future.

A response has been received from Jonathan O’Dea MP Parliamentary Secretary to the premier and Treasurer stating that the issues is the responsibility for the Minister fir Regional Water, and has been referred there.

Motion: That MDA write to Ministers in all Basin states, seeking clarification of responsibilities and risks between agencies local councils and water utilities in proposed expanding irrigation developments, where water availability and over allocation are identified issues with future ramifications for communities

4.3 Strategic Plan 2019-2024

See CEOs report.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence in

5.1.1 The Hon David Littleproud – Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Minister Littleproud has acknowledged the value of the role of the MDA, and receipt of funding proposal for development of a socio-economic impact assessment framework that could be also used for assessing efficiency measures, SDLAM projects and long-term policy and program development for structural adjustment and regional development assessment. The Minister has formally declined funding, noting that the work overlaps work being done by DAWR and MDBA.

5.1.2 The Hon Lisa Neville – Victorian Minister for Water
Noting receipt of correspondence re MDA’s response to the fish deaths in NSW – and outlining the work being done in Victoria.

5.1.3 The Hon Niall Blair – NSW Minister for Regional Water
Noting receipt of correspondence re MDA’s response to the fish deaths in NSW – and outlining the work being done in NSW.

5.2 Correspondence out

5.1.1 The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP Premier NSW: Economic Activation Plan
(see item 4.2).

5.1.2 Minister Littleproud - Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program
Requesting advice regarding the consultation or program design process or other information relating to the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program that will assist ineligible communities to understand the basis upon which their councils have been excluded, and future opportunities which may be available to them.

The DAWR team assessing the grants contacted the MDA by phone noting that the Department had relied upon advice from the MDBA in relation to communities most directly impacted by the Basin Plan, as distinct from those communities impacted by other factors. No written response has been received.

Motion: That the correspondence is noted.

A Tilley/J MacAllister Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 MDA-MDBA Memorandum of Understanding 2019 – 2024

This item is confidential in its draft form until approved by both boards. Draft for comment. Subject to approval by the MDA, the MOU will be prepared by the MDBA for presentation to the Authority at its May meeting, with the President and CEO to attend for signing.

Motion: That the MDA approves the draft MOU to be established between Murray Darling Association and the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

P Mansfield/ M Rebbeck Carried

6.2 Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program – Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program

Funding application submitted. Rationale that this initiative will stimulate economic activity and build capacity initially across all eligible communities, and beyond – to become a signature program for the MDA delivering membership services and an active income stream across all MDB communities.

Numerous letters of support have been received including from

- Balranald Shire Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- MDA Region 6
- Balonne Shire Council
- Tony Pasin MP – Member for Barker (SA)
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Albury City Council

6.3 Funding Proposal: Delivering confidence and trust in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2019 - 2024.

Business case developed following direction arising from Strategic Planning workshop in February. National President and CEO to meet with the Offices of the Hon Bill Shorten MP, and the Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia on Tuesday 26th March to present the case. No response to the request to present the case yet received from the offices of Minister

Littleproud or Mr Burke.

Numerous letters of support have been received including from

- Balranald Shire Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- MDA Region 6
- Balonne Shire Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Albury City Council

6.4 River Connections Program

The MDA is assembling a consortium and preparing an EOI in application for up to \$9M over 10 years under the NSW Environmental Trust River Connections contestable grant program. Further information including program guidelines and application form here

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/river-connections.htm>. Applications close on Monday 25th March at 3.00pm

Objectives we need to meet

1. To establish partnerships that align a range of river users with diverse values into a common purpose to improve river health, that will continue beyond the program and its funding.
2. To trial new approaches or combinations of approaches to integrated river management and connectivity that deliver improved health outcomes for inland rivers.
3. To create an incentive for coordinated activities that contribute to improved river health.

Motion – That the MDA notes the above project applications

D Clark/ P Maytom

Carried

6.5 NSW - Independent Parliamentary Budget Office costings of the Coalition and Labor election commitments in the NSW regional water portfolio.

Motion – That the MDA notes the Independent Parliamentary Budget Office costings of the Coalition and Labor election commitments in the NSW regional water portfolio.

D Clark/ P Maytom

Carried

6.6 Project opportunity - Energy efficiency, cost effective supply and renewable generation.

The MDA has been invited by Constructive Energy principal Ashley Bland to participate in a project to explore the benefits and opportunities to supply councils will energy in a potential county council style model, with benefits for both councils and the energy provider arising from bulk supply across the Murray Darling Basin.

The first step will be seeking a grant from the energy provider to undertake an analysis of the quantum, and profile of energy use within the MDB. If the grant is approved, the MDA would undertake the

project subcontracting Constructive Energy to complete the analysis. Constructive Energy are experienced in this field, having already done this for several local governments.

Subject to the outcome of that analysis, this may present a further opportunity for the MDA to develop its member services, and in so doing, to establish an ongoing passive income stream.

This opportunity aligns strongly with the strategic direction of the organization,

- a) To provide representation of and services to local government in the management of Basin resources.

This extends beyond that of water alone and recognizes the continuing importance of energy in the management of our natural resources to ensure sustainable communities, economies, industries and environments.

- b) To be a strong, viable, self-sustaining organization.

Motion: That the MDA

- i) seeks to provide a range of services and benefits to member councils including those related to energy in terms of efficiency, supply and renewable generation,
- ii) investigates the possibility of a brokerage or facilitatory role in bringing the most competitive energy pricing to member and constituent councils,
- iii) encourages further work between the MDA and Constructive Energy to pursue the initiative, and
- iv) invites a presentation to the board from Constructive Energy at the earliest opportunity.

J MacAllister/ P Mansfield

Carried

6.7 MDA Position on current Basin scale issues

6.7.1 Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019

The MDA was invited to make submission to the Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019. Submissions were required to be lodged by 27 February 2019. The CEO sent out an email to all regions seeking feedback to inform any submission the MDA may make.

The outline to the legislation explains that the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019 (the Bill) proposes to amend the Water Act 2007 (the Act) to repeal the statutory limit of 1,500 gigalitres on Commonwealth purchases of surface water across the Murray-Darling Basin. In 2016 the Act was amended to limit water buybacks to 1,500 gigalitres based on the Government's Water Recovery Strategy for the Murray-Darling Basin.

Feedback from the regions was diverse, clearly indicating that detailed consultation and engagement was required if there was to be any amendment to the MDA's current adopted position in relation to the cap. As such, the MDA made no submission, leaving the way clear for the regions and councils to make their own determinations.

In 2015 Motion 5.1 of the MDA National Conference 2015 resolved *That the Murray Darling Association continues to advocate strongly for legislation for a 1500 gigalitre cap on water purchases in the Basin to be passed in the Parliament, acknowledging that the legislation is before the Parliament at the time of this AGM.*

In view of the proposed amendment, and the continuing evolution of the Basin Plan it is timely that the MDA has a detailed discussion on this issue to determine the position of the MDA.

Motion:

- a) That the MDA Chairs consult with their regions and provide feedback to the CEO for the preparation of a considered position statement in relation to buy backs as a mechanism.
- b) CEO to provide a report for consideration by the board in advance of Board Meeting 385, including process considerations.
- c) That the CEO arrange for an information presentation from appropriately qualified agency to facilitate a discussion on the cap on buybacks to assist in determining the position of the regions and the board.

M Rebbeck/ P Maytom

Carried

6.7.2 MDA Response to SA Royal Commission

The MDA has not yet finalized a detailed response to the SA Royal Commission Report. While there are many key findings and recommendations within the report that align with the views of the MDA, and that may be helpful in supporting the optimal implementation of the Basin Plan, there are also several recommendations directly at odds with the adopted position of the MDA, including recommendations 8,11 and 13.

- Recommendation 8 - Future water recovery for the environment, including the 450 GL, should be purchased through buyback. This requires repeal of the 1500 GL cap on buybacks in sec 85C of the Water Act.
- Recommendation 11 - If efficiency measures are retained as a means of recovering water for the environment, including the 450 GL, no changes should be made to the test for determining neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes in sec 7.17(2)(b) of the Basin Plan. Insofar as the criteria agreed at the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting on 14 December 2018 alter that test, they should be abandoned as they will likely result in the failure to recover that water.
- Recommendation 13 - The 70 GL reduction in the amount of water to be recovered in the Northern Basin should be immediately repealed.

Motion: That

- a) the MDA Chairs consult with their regions and provide feedback to the CEO for the preparation of a considered response to the SA Royal Commission and
- b) the CEO to provide a draft response for consideration by the board in advance of Board Meeting 385, and
- c) the MDA write to the Minister for Agriculture and Water resources seeking an understanding of the government's response to the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report released 01 February 2019.

D Thurley/ P Mansfield

Carried

6.1.1 MDBA Decentralization

David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources has announced 76 new jobs would be spread across Murray Bridge in SA, Mildura in Victoria, Griffith in NSW and Goondiwindi in Queensland, on top of the 28 jobs the MDBA has already decentralised.

The MDA was contacted by the ABC for comment in relation to this announcement for comment. The following comments were provided.

- In relation to the decentralisation of the further 76 MDBA jobs, taking the total to 103 jobs to be located in the regions we have not seen the details of the proposal, and so would hesitate to comment on the specifics of the initiative.
- The MDA supports the objectives underpinning the initiative proposed by the Minister – driving greater economic and social growth for our regional towns.
- We note that implementation of the Basin Plan is complex, and would hope that any risks, as well as any benefits of decentralisation have been actively considered in the planning – taking into consideration any available lessons from the review of the APVMA decentralisation experience which found, among other things that the loss of experienced staff exacerbated underlying problems causing delays in its work.
- Comments from the unions and some communities already questioning the rationale and equity serve to illustrate the importance of coordinated consultation and engagement to get the best outcomes from this initiative.
- The importance of local knowledge informing the decisions that impact our local communities is a key principle that the MDA has long promoted to Basin governments.
- The MDA is currently calling on Basin governments to provide resources for local government to engage Basin communities to provide detailed and coordinated local engagement in the remaining implementation of the Basin Plan.
- For governments and agencies to operate with the social licence and confidence they need to effect implementation, they need communities to know and understand the processes involved, and to contribute their support and knowledge to successful, interconnected outcomes. For all this to occur, all three levels of government must work together, commit the necessary financial and other required resources to achieve that shared objectives. As Ken Matthews noted “reforms go nowhere without the resources to complete the work.

Motion: That the board approve the above comments for the basis of a statement to be posted on the MDA website.

P Maytom/ A Tilley

Carried

7. MEMBERSHIP APPROVALS

7.1 Membership receipts

7.1.1 Bruce Brooks - Region 6

Motion: That membership of Mr Brooks be approved

J MacAllister/ R Marsh

Carried

It was noted that the current process for approving membership applications does not have provision to adequately assess and or vet applicants. Draft membership policy will be presented to the next meeting. a membership application process based upon specific regional basis]

8. STRATEGY

8.1 Strengthening MDA Region meetings

Strategic Objective #1 of our current strategic plan is to develop the strength and authority of the regions.

Region meetings are the foundation and the cornerstone of the MDA's operation, purpose and value. Recent years have seen significant advances in engagement, leadership and governance at regional level, ensuring that regional priorities are identified and elevated through a consistent and accountable process. However, there is always more to be done.

Two key actions will assist in achieving that objective:

- 1) More consistent use of Zoom to facilitate attendance at region meetings by
 - a. The CEO
 - b. Chairs and committee members of neighboring regions
 - c. Member and prospective member councils to alleviate travel costs and time
 - d. Guest presenters.

- 2) Preparation and submission of monthly region reports in standard format.

Motion: That the MDA Regions adopt as standard practice

- a) Provision of a Zoom link on all published region meeting agendas and calendar invitations
- b) Regions to provide a written report to the executive of the MDA no later than a week prior to the board meeting for publication in the Board meeting papers.

J Campbell/A Tilley

Carried

Actions: MDA National executive to

- a) Facilitate regular training and engagement of region secretariats through the national executive in support of these practices.
- b) Develop a procedure for use of Zoom links in meeting papers.

9. PROJECTS and EVENTS

9.1 Connecting Catchments and Communities

Following the successful Renmark **Connecting Catchments and Communities** event, the MDA needs to commence planning for upcoming events. The workshops will be presented as inter-regional events, aimed at enhancing water literacy and exchanging information across the Basin.

Suggested topics for the coming year include:

- **Albury to Adelaide** - exploring topics of inflows and urban water use, planning, flood management etc.
- **Balonne to Broken Hill** – exploring topics of irrigation in the Northern Basin, Barwon-Darling water sharing plan etc
- **Moirra to Mildura** – exploring issues of constraints, management of the Barmah choke, impact of expanding the irrigation footprint to permanent plantings below The Choke, total capacity and supply obligations etc.
- **Naran Lake to Nyngan** – Managing the Macquarie Marshes – exploring the relationship between the irrigation, the SDLs and ephemeral wetlands of the interior.
- **Walcha to Walgett**

Motion:That the next event is Moira to Mildura within the next two months

J MaAllister/P Mansfield

Carried

MEETING CLOSED 11.54am

Profit and Loss

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Jan 2019

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income								
Conference Income	-	-	-	0.0%	95,739	75,000	20,739▲	27.7%▲
Donation/Gift Income	10	5	5▲	100.0%▲	150	35	115▲	328.6%▲
Income - Memberships	(264)	-	(264)▼	0.0%	213,997	249,900	(35,903)▼	-14.4%▼
Income - Projects	-	-	-	0.0%	750	-	750▲	0.0%
Income - Water Sales	10,801	-	10,801▲	0.0%	21,301	-	21,301▲	0.0%
Interest Income	-	800	(800)▼	-100.0%▼	(170)	1,600	(1,770)▼	-110.6%▼
Profit on Sale of Assets	-	-	-	0.0%	2,925	-	2,925▲	0.0%
Total Income	10,547	805	9,742	1210.2%	334,692	326,535	8,157	2.5%
Gross Profit	10,547	805	9,742	1210.0%	334,692	326,535	8,157	2.0%
Less Operating Expenses								
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼	-	245	(245)▼	-100.0%▼
Advertising & Marketing	1,060	-	1,060▲ ¹	0.0%	11,073	4,500	6,573▲ ²	146.1%▲
Bank Fees	61	50	11▲	22.0%▲	734	350	384▲	109.7%▲
Business Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	976	408	568▲	139.3%▲
Computer Expenses	-	100	(100)▼	-100.0%▼	533	700	(167)▼	-23.9%▼
Conference Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	34,122	26,000	8,122▲	31.2%▲
Depreciation - Computer	301	-	301▲	0.0%	1,975	-	1,975▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	15	-	15▲	0.0%	103	-	103▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	0.0%	1,345	-	1,345▲	0.0%

Profit and Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Depreciation - Office Equipment	21	-	21▲	0.0%	145	-	145▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Software	394	-	394▲	0.0%	2,733	-	2,733▲	0.0%
Engagement and Communications	-	300	(300)▼	-100.0%▼	3,500	2,100	1,400▲	66.7%▲
Events Expenses	2,772	-	2,772▲ ^{1 2}	0.0%	2,772	-	2,772▲	0.0%
Fees and Fines	-	-	-	0.0%	345	-	345▲	0.0%
Freight Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	1,780	-	1,780▲	0.0%
General Repairs & Maintenance	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	217	350	(133)▼	-38.1%▼
Licences and Subscriptions	21	100	(79)▼	-79.4%▼	2,683	700	1,983▲	283.2%▲
Motor Vehicle Fuel/Oil	-	320	(320)▼	-100.0%▼	1,864	2,240	(376)▼	-16.8%▼
Motor Vehicle Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	743	865	(122)▼	-14.1%▼
Motor Vehicle Interest Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	499	195	304▲	155.7%▲
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	-	-	-	0.0%	796	380	416▲	109.5%▲
Motor Vehicle Registration	(700)	-	(700)▼	0.0%	162	690	(528)▼	-76.5%▼
Other Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	592	-	592▲	0.0%
Parking/Tolls Expenses	47	-	47▲	0.0%	312	-	312▲	0.0%
Postage	-	120	(120)▼	-100.0%▼	1,050	840	210▲	25.0%▲
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%	8,250	7,000	1,250▲	17.9%▲
Printing	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼	53	1,050	(997)▼	-95.0%▼
Pro Indemnity Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	-	811	(811)▼	-100.0%▼
Professional Fees	-	-	-	0.0%	6,832	5,500	1,332▲	24.2%▲
Public Liability Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	1,555	650	905▲	139.2%▲
Staff Amenities	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	312	350	(38)▼	-10.9%▼
Staff Training Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	99	-	99▲	0.0%
Stationery	97	75	22▲	29.0%▲	714	525	189▲	36.0%▲
Superannuation	1,436	1,579	(143)▼	-9.1%▼	11,335	12,631	(1,296)▼	-10.3%▼

Profit and Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Telephone Expenses	660	450	210▲ ³	46.7%▲	3,306	3,150	156▲	4.9%▲
Travel & Accom. Expenses	442	670	(228)▼	-34.0%▼	5,851	4,690	1,161▲	24.7%▲
Travel Allowance (CEO)	479	-	479▲	0.0%	1,230	-	1,230▲	0.0%
Wages & Salaries Expenses	16,259	16,620	(361)▼	-2.2%▼	127,524	132,960	(5,436)▼	-4.1%▼
Water Expenses	-	20	(20)▼	-100.0%▼	775	640	135▲	21.1%▲
Work Cover Premiums	-	-	-	0.0%	654	2,500	(1,846)▼	-73.8%▼
Total Operating Expenses	24,364	21,689	2,675	12.3%	239,543	213,020	26,523	12.5%
Net Profit	(13,817)	(20,884)	7,067	34.0%	95,149	113,515	(18,366)	-16.0%

Notes

1

Regional leadership faqs info sheet, designing and supplying Conference sponsorship prospectus draft etc

1

Strategic Planning Workshop

2

Use of print and design in marketing materials will be reviewed. While costs are high, development of content is a significant cost that can be offset by appropriately skilled resources in house when we have it.

2

Strategic Planning workshop

Profit and Loss

3

Transition from old premises and NBN. Cost savings will be realized from March.

Balance Sheet

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED As at 31 January 2019

31 Jan 2019 31 Jan 2018

Assets

	31 Jan 2019	31 Jan 2018
Bank		
ANZ Business Extra ...6893	53,178	99,523
ANZ Commercial Credit Card 359	(963)	(1,332)
ANZ MDF Gift #9052	1,706	1,576
ANZ MDF Ops #7503	4	4
Total Bank	53,924	99,771
Current Assets		
LGFA 01 Account	45,610	42,282
LGFA 01 Environmental Fund	-	2,497
Trade Debtors	10,130	17,850
Trade Debtors Original	-	75
Total Current Assets	55,740	62,704
Fixed Assets		
Art Work at Valuation	5,000	5,000
Computers	2,280	-
Computers Accumulated Depreciation	(2,535)	(286)
Low Value Pool	1,761	1,761
Low Value Pool Accumulated Depreciation	(1,397)	(1,179)
Motor Vehicles	-	34,718
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Depreciation	-	(20,494)
Office Equipment	4,798	4,798
Office Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	(2,502)	(2,230)
Software At Cost	23,300	16,550
Software at Cost Accumulated Depreciation	(7,684)	(2,231)
Total Fixed Assets	23,021	36,408
Non-current Assets		
Bond Paid - Echuca Office (Ray White Echuca)	1,100	-
Future MV Benefit Reserve (CEO)	15,500	-
High Security Water Shares MDA	156,025	115,100
High Security Water Shares MDF	70,200	54,000
Sundry Debtor	-	167
Total Non-current Assets	242,825	169,267
Total Assets	375,510	368,151

Liabilities

	31 Jan 2019	31 Jan 2018
Current Liabilities		
GST	(6,206)	(316)
Rounding	115	-
Trade Creditors	1,601	-
Total Current Liabilities	(4,490)	(316)

Balance Sheet

	31 Jan 2019	31 Jan 2018
Non-Current Liabilities		
Annual Leave Benefit	15,072	10,911
Debenture Loan	1,500	1,500
Hire Purchase Liability	-	3,665
Hire Purchase Unexpired Charges	-	(61)
Month-end accruals	3,000	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	8,710	15,838
Superannuation Fund #1	8	-
Superannuation payable	5,415	2,298
Total Non-Current Liabilities	33,704	34,151
Total Liabilities	29,214	33,835
Net Assets	346,296	334,316
Equity		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	82,175	25,050
Current Year Earnings	95,149	115,666
Retained Earnings	168,972	193,599
Total Equity	346,296	334,316

Aged Payables

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED January 2019

	Current	December	November	October	Older	Total
Payables						
Advance Computing P/l	-	-	27	-	194	221
Australia Post	-	5	-	-	-	5
Parks Victoria	-	-	1,375	-	-	1,375
Total Payables	-	5	1,402	-	194	1,601
	Current	December	November	October	Older	Total
Total Expense Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	5	1,402	-	194	1,601
	0.0%	0.3%	87.5%	0.0%	12.1%	

Aged Receivables

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED January 2019

	Current	December	November	October	Older	Total
Receivables						
Coolamon Shire Council	-	-	-	-	1,313	1,313
Temora Shire Council	-	-	-	-	1,850	1,850
Wodonga City Council	-	-	-	-	6,968	6,968 ¹
Total Receivables	-	-	-	-	10,130	10,130
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	

Notes

1

Since Paid

Profit and Loss

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1 Feb 2019 to 28 Feb 2019

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income								
Conference Income	1,391 ³	-	1,391▲	0.0%	97,130	75,000	22,130▲	29.5%▲
Donation/Gift Income	10	5	5▲	100.0%▲	160	40	120▲	300.0%▲
Income - Memberships	77	-	77▲	0.0%	214,074	249,900	(35,826)▼	-14.3%▼
Income - Projects	-	-	-	0.0%	750	-	750▲	0.0%
Income - Water Sales	-	-	-	0.0%	21,301	-	21,301▲	0.0%
Interest Income	-	-	-	0.0%	(170)	1,600	(1,770)▼	-110.6%▼
Profit on Sale of Assets	-	-	-	0.0%	2,925	-	2,925▲	0.0%
Total Income	1,478	5	1,473	29459.2%	336,170	326,540	9,630	2.9%
Gross Profit	1,478	5	1,473	29459.0%	336,170	326,540	9,630	3.0%
Less Operating Expenses								
Accounting/Bookeeping Fees	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼	-	280	(280)▼	-100.0%▼
Administration Assistance	782	-	782▲	0.0%	782	-	782▲	0.0%
Advertising & Marketing	114	-	114▲	0.0%	11,186	4,500	6,686▲	148.6%▲
Bank Fees	61	50	11▲	22.0%▲	795	400	395▲	98.7%▲
Business Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	976	408	568▲	139.3%▲
Computer Expenses	2,311 ¹	100	2,211▲	2211.2%▲	2,844	800	2,044▲	255.5%▲
Conference Expenses	82	-	82▲	0.0%	34,204	26,000	8,204▲	31.6%▲
Depreciation - Computer	272	-	272▲	0.0%	2,247	-	2,247▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	13	-	13▲	0.0%	117	-	117▲	0.0%

Profit and Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	-	-	-	0.0%	1,345	-	1,345▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Office Equipment	19	-	19▲	0.0%	164	-	164▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Software	356	-	356▲	0.0%	3,089	-	3,089▲	0.0%
Engagement and Communications	-	300	(300)▼	-100.0%▼	3,500	2,400	1,100▲	45.8%▲
Events Expenses	1,923 ²	-	1,923▲	0.0%	4,695	-	4,695▲	0.0%
Fees and Fines	-	-	-	0.0%	345	-	345▲	0.0%
Freight Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	1,780	-	1,780▲	0.0%
Fuel Expenses	127	-	127▲	0.0%	127	-	127▲	0.0%
General Repairs & Maintenance	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	217	400	(183)▼	-45.8%▼
Licences and Subscriptions	361	100	261▲	260.6%▲	3,043	800	2,243▲	280.4%▲
Management Consulting Fees	2,271 ⁴	-	2,271▲	0.0%	2,271	-	2,271▲	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Fuel/Oil	-	320	(320)▼	-100.0%▼	1,864	2,560	(696)▼	-27.2%▼
Motor Vehicle Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	743	865	(122)▼	-14.1%▼
Motor Vehicle Interest Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	499	195	304▲	155.7%▲
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	-	-	-	0.0%	796	380	416▲	109.5%▲
Motor Vehicle Registration	-	-	-	0.0%	162	690	(528)▼	-76.5%▼
Other Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	592	-	592▲	0.0%
Parking/Tolls Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	312	-	312▲	0.0%
Postage	22	120	(98)▼	-81.8%▼	1,072	960	112▲	11.7%▲
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%	9,250	8,000	1,250▲	15.6%▲
Printing	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼	53	1,200	(1,147)▼	-95.6%▼
Pro Indemnity Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	-	811	(811)▼	-100.0%▼
Professional Fees	-	-	-	0.0%	6,832	5,500	1,332▲	24.2%▲
Public Liability Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	1,555	650	905▲	139.2%▲
Staff Amenities	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	312	400	(88)▼	-22.0%▼

Profit and Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Staff Training Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	99	-	99▲	0.0%
Stationery	141	75	66▲	88.3%▲	855	600	255▲	42.5%▲
Superannuation	1,023	1,579	(556)▼	-35.2%▼	12,358	14,210	(1,852)▼	-13.0%▼
Telephone Expenses	523	450	73▲	16.3%▲	3,829	3,600	229▲	6.4%▲
Travel & Accom. Expenses	238	670	(432)▼	-64.4%▼	6,089	5,360	729▲	13.6%▲
Travel Allowance (CEO)	-	-	-	0.0%	1,230	-	1,230▲	0.0%
Wages & Salaries Expenses	11,174	16,620	(5,446)▼ ⁵	-32.8%▼	138,699	149,580	(10,881)▼	-7.3%▼
Water Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	775	640	135▲	21.1%▲
Work Cover Premiums	330	-	330▲	0.0%	983	2,500	(1,517)▼	-60.7%▼
Total Operating Expenses	23,143	21,669	1,474	6.8%	262,686	234,689	27,997	11.9%
Net Profit	(21,665)	(21,664)	(1)	0.0%	73,484	91,851	(18,367)	-20.0%

Notes

1

Bi-annual cloud hosting fees unbudgeted, and cost for tech support to patch failing system.

2

Slido and venue - strat planning workshop

3

Income from Strat Planning dinner - offset expenses.

4

Ash Bland - Strategic Planning writer/facilitator

Profit and Loss

5

Favorable to budget

Balance Sheet

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED As at 28 February 2019

28 Feb 2019

28 Feb 2018

Assets

	28 Feb 2019	28 Feb 2018
Bank		
ANZ Business Extra ...6893	43,195	83,591
ANZ Commercial Credit Card 359	(2,009)	191
ANZ MDF Gift #9052	1,716	1,591
ANZ MDF Ops #7503	4	4
Total Bank	42,905	85,376
Current Assets		
LGFA 01 Account	45,610	42,282
LGFA 01 Environmental Fund	-	2,497
Trade Debtors	3,162	14,985
Trade Debtors Original	-	75
Total Current Assets	48,772	59,839
Fixed Assets		
Art Work at Valuation	5,000	5,000
Computers	2,280	-
Computers Accumulated Depreciation	(2,807)	(323)
Low Value Pool	1,761	1,761
Low Value Pool Accumulated Depreciation	(1,411)	(1,200)
Motor Vehicles	-	34,718
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Depreciation	-	(20,814)
Office Equipment	4,798	4,798
Office Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	(2,521)	(2,254)
Software At Cost	23,300	16,550
Software at Cost Accumulated Depreciation	(8,040)	(2,739)
Total Fixed Assets	22,361	35,498
Non-current Assets		
Bond Paid - Echuca Office (Ray White Echuca)	1,100	-
Future MV Benefit Reserve (CEO)	15,500	-
High Security Water Shares MDA	156,025	115,100
High Security Water Shares MDF	70,200	54,000
Sundry Debtor	-	167
Total Non-current Assets	242,825	169,267
Total Assets	356,863	349,980

Liabilities

	28 Feb 2019	28 Feb 2018
Current Liabilities		
GST	(7,082)	(860)
Rounding	115	(1)
Trade Creditors	759	646
Total Current Liabilities	(6,208)	(215)

Balance Sheet

	28 Feb 2019	28 Feb 2018
Non-Current Liabilities		
Annual Leave Benefit	15,072	10,911
Debenture Loan	1,500	1,500
Hire Purchase Liability	-	3,332
Hire Purchase Unexpired Charges	-	(22)
Month-end accruals	3,000	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	11,654	20,560
Superannuation Fund #1	8	-
Superannuation payable	7,207	3,837
Total Non-Current Liabilities	38,440	40,118
Total Liabilities	32,232	39,903
Net Assets	324,631	310,077
Equity		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	82,175	25,050
Current Year Earnings	73,484	91,428
Retained Earnings	168,972	193,599
Total Equity	324,631	310,077

Aged Payables

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED February 2019

	Current	January	December	November	Older	Total
Payables						
Advance Computing P/l	54	-	-	27	33	114
AssetMedia	187	-	-	-	-	187
Australia Post	-	-	5	-	-	5
Flexible Administration	90	-	-	-	-	90
Gallagher Bassett	362	-	-	-	-	362
Total Payables	693	-	5	27	33	759
	Current	January	December	November	Older	Total
Total Expense Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	693	-	5	27	33	759
	91.4%	0.0%	0.7%	3.6%	4.3%	

Aged Receivables

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED March 2019

	Current	February	January	December	Older	Total
Receivables						
Coolamon Shire Council	-	-	-	-	1,313	1,313
Temora Shire Council	-	-	-	-	1,850	1,850
Total Receivables	-	-	-	-	3,162	3,162
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	



Chief Executive Officer's Report

March 2019

Emma Bradbury
ceo@mda.asn.au

1. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
01/02/2019	Presentation RAMJO GM's meeting	Moama, NSW
01/02/2019	Board Meeting 383	Moama, NSW
01/02/2019	Strategic Planning Workshop (1-3 Feb)	Moama, NSW
08/02/2019	EMFM Radio – monthly program	Moama, NSW
13/02/2019	Address National Irrigators Council dinner	Swan Hill, Vic
15/02/2019	Region 6 AGM -Goolwa	Zoom
15/02/2019	DoI Water/MDA/LGNSW Re: engagement local gov't – Sydney	Zoom
19/02/2019	Introduction to the Rice Industry – leadership address	Deniliquin, NSW
19/02/2019	Planning Committee Meeting Nat Con - Toowoomba	Zoom
22/02/2019	Connecting Catchments and Communities	Renmark, SA
28/02/2019	Region 7 Ordinary Meeting – Adelaide	Zoom
04/03/2019	MDBA – Finalise draft MOU – Canberra	Zoom
06/03/2019	Buloke Shire Council presentation	Sea Lake, Vic
08/03/2019	EMFM Radio – monthly Program	Echuca, Vic
12/03/2019	Region 11 ordinary meeting – Tenterfield	Zoom
13/03/2019	NRAR Board Meeting – guest: Sydney	Zoom
15/03/2019	Darling Downs and SW Qld Council of Mayors	Dalby, Qld
18/03/2019	River Connections Grant Application consortium meeting	Zoom

2. Engagements

2.1 RAMJO GM's Meeting

Presentation to RAMJO GM's meeting to provide an update on MDA projects and priorities. Welcome new CEO Bridgett Leopold, Executive Officer who replaces Ray Stubbs, Acting EO.

2.2 Strategic Planning Workshop

More than 55 community leaders from 28 councils across all four states, of the Murray Darling Basin met for the 5th annual Murray Darling Association Strategic Planning workshop. The three-day event saw a gathering of mayors, councillors and senior executives of councils from all 12 MDA regions.

Preliminary notes are attached, with a draft strategic plan to be circulated in advance of the Board Meeting 385.

2.3 National Irrigators Council Dinner – Swan Hill

2.4 DoI Water/MDA/LGNSW Re: engagement local gov't

Meeting with DOI Water and LGNSW on progressing a project in relation to developing a community consultation standard. DoI to present a proposal – but now in caretaker. Discussions will resume post election.

2.5 Introduction to the Rice Industry – Leadership address

Excellent opportunity.

2.6 Connecting Catchments and Communities

Connecting Catchments and Communities – MDA inter-regional workshops

MDA Regions 4-5 held a very successful workshop/forum in Renmark on the 22nd February 2019, with the purpose to facilitate further education and information on the topic of river health and connectivity from Menindee to the Coorong.

Identified as the first in an ongoing series of events that the MDA will run titled ***Connecting Catchments and Communities***. The workshops will be presented as inter-regional events, aimed at enhancing water literacy and exchanging information across the Basin.

Topics for the coming year include:

- **Albury to Adelaide** - exploring topics of inflows and urban water use, planning, flood management etc.
- **Balonne to Broken Hill** – exploring topics of irrigation in the Northern Basin, Barwon-Darling water sharing plan etc
- **Moira to Mildura** – exploring issues of constraints, management of the Barmah choke, impact of expanding the irrigation footprint to permanent plantings below The Choke, total capacity and supply obligations etc.
- **Naran Lake to Nyngan** – Managing the Macquarie Marshes – exploring the relationship between the irrigation, the SDLs and ephemeral wetlands of the interior.
- Etc...

Feedback from the event was exceptionally positive from both attendees and presenters.

2.7 Buloke Shire Council Presentation

Travelled to Sea Lake to address Buloke Shire Council. Cr David Pollock has represented Buloke Shire Council at a number of MDA events recently. Subsequent to the presentation, Cr Pollock will represent the Bullock Shire at board meeting 384 as a guest,.

2.8 NRAR Board Meeting – guest: Sydney

Attended NRAR Board Meeting. Natural Resources Access Regulator – Provided a presentation seeking feedback on their Approach to regulatory priorities

NRAR's ongoing program of activities and specific projects is based on an analysis of the potential impact and likelihood of non-compliance. This means the focus of activities will be on areas where there would be material environmental and hydrological consequences if there was non-compliance, and where there is high likelihood of non-compliance occurring.

NRAR CEO Grant Barnes also provided a brief of the regulator's actions and activities:

- Since 30 April 2018, NRAR has received over 4000 enquiries through their hotline; resulting in 650 alleged breaches reported.
- When coupled with inherited legacy cases, this amounts to over 1200 investigations.
- 600 of these investigations have been finalised and approximately half of these resulted in some form of compliance action (Advisory Letters, PINs, Cautions. etc)
- NRAR has issued ~40 statutory directions, addressing continuing harm, as well as ~40 Penalty Infringement Notices.
- NRAR has commenced 6 prosecutions, with 3 having resulted in guilty verdicts (and 3 continuing).

NRAR were provided with a copy of the letter sent to the NSW DPC regarding economic activation plans as a potential emerging risk of future non-compliance.

2.9 Darling Downs and SW Qld Council of Mayors

Presentation to Darling Downs and SW Qld Council of Mayors in Dalby. That group includes

Mayor John Ferguson	Bulloo Shire Council
Mayor Stuart Mackenzie	Quilpie Shire Council
Mayor Lindsay Godfrey	Paroo Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Annie Liston	Murweh Shire Council
Mayor Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council
Mayor Tyson Golder	Maranoa Regional Council
Mayor Graeme Scheu	Goondiwindi Regional Council
Mayor Paul McVeigh	Western Downs Regional Council
Mayor Tracy Dobie	Southern Downs Regional Council
Mayor Paul Antonio	Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) (Chair)

Discussions emerged on the opportunity for region 12 meetings to dovetail with that group, consistent with current strategy.

A briefing at the meeting by ARTC / Inland Rail providing an update on the inland rail project identified a number of synergies and opportunities to partner, particularly in relation to their social performance program. National Conference 2019 **presentation** opportunity. Discussions to continue.

Mayor Richard Marsh presented the MDA Conference Trophy to Toowoomba Mayor Paul Antonio.

2.10 River Connections Grant Application consortium meeting

The MDA is assembling a consortium and preparing an EOI in application for up to \$9M over 10 years under the NSW Environmental Trust River Connections contestable grant program. Further information including program guidelines and application form here <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/river-connections.htm>. Applications close on Monday 25th March at 3.00pm

Objectives we need to meet

1. To establish partnerships that align a range of river users with diverse values into a common purpose to improve river health, that will continue beyond the program and its funding.
2. To trial new approaches or combinations of approaches to integrated river management and connectivity that deliver improved health outcomes for inland rivers.
3. To create an incentive for coordinated activities that contribute to improved river health.

Identified/prospective consortium partners:

- Murray-Darling Association
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- National Irrigators Council & NSW Irrigators Council
- National Farmers Federation & NSW Farmers Federation
- Landcare?
- Conservation focussed groups? (Invasive Species Council, Australian Conservation Foundation)
- Charles Sturt University – Institute of Land and Water Studies (leading monitoring and evaluation)

3 Update on AGM Resolutions

Little progress on any resolutions across the Christmas, early new year period.

4 National Conference

Regular planning meetings of the National Conference planning committee will resume in February.

5 Staffing

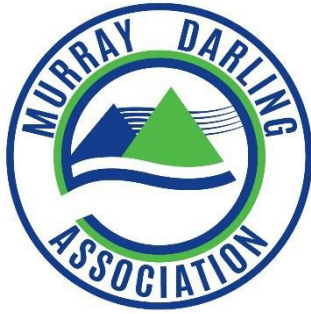
James Marshall commences an internship 3 days a week with the MDA on 25/03/2019. James is currently studying Bachelor of Commerce with Latrobe University. James also has a particular interest in Ag Science.

Applications for the position of Executive Assistant to the CEO have been called on Seek. So far the posting has attracted 18871 search views, 883 Job views and 12 applications. Applications close Friday 29th March 2019.



Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer



Board Meeting 384

Region [#] report

March 2019

Chair and Committee

- Chair David Thurley, Albury City
- Executive Bernard Gaffney, Indigo Shire
- David Wortmann, Towong Shire

Meetings and events held

Quarterly meeting held Friday 22nd February

The meeting resolved that the Chair would write to the NSW Water Minister to seek input and explanations for the recent declaration of a red alert for blue-green algae in Lake Hume and express disappointment that it was issued with limited testing and further follow-up testing did not occur for some time. The matter of algae in Mannus Lake and the creek downstream was also raised.

The meeting also resolved that the Chair would convey Region 1's concern about the proposed lifting off the Basin buyback cap and seek further information.

The guest speaker was Adrian Wells who gave a presentation on Wetlands of the Murray Darling Basin.

Upcoming meetings and events

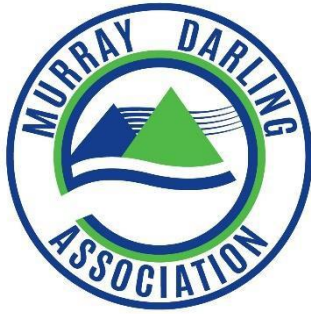
The next Region 1 meeting will be held on 24th May

Regional issues

Include here any feedback or issues emerging for individual councils in your region

Membership and engagement

The Chair addressed Snowy Monaro Council and asked them to consider becoming members of the MDA. The matter of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park was raised as an important issue.



Board Meeting 384

Region 1 report

March 2019

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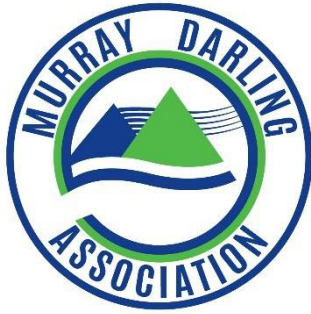
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Board Meeting 384

Region 6 Report

March 2019

Chair and Committee

- Chair Councillor Melissa Rebbeck (Alexandrina Council)
- Executive Officer Tracey Strugnell (Coorong District Council)

Region 6 Executive

Councillor's	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck (Chair) Councillor Vern Leng Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council Coorong District Council Alexandrina Council
CEO's or their delegates	CEO Glenn Rappensberg CEO Vincent Cammell Heather Barclay - General Manager Assets & Infrastructure	Alexandrina Council Coorong District Council Rural City of Murray Bridge

Meetings and events held

- Region 6 AGM February 15th
- Region 6 Ordinary Meeting February 15th
- Included guest speakers: Angus McGregor – Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (DEW)
Monique White – Assistant Director – Engagement (MDBA)
Michelle Campbell – Engagement Officer (CEWH)
Deana Mildren – Engagement Officer (MDBA)

Member attendance at:

- Connecting Catchments and Communities Renmark – 22nd of February
- Launch of NRSE Coorong NLP2 project Noonameena
- River Murray Water Allocation & Carryover workshops Murray Bridge & Langhorne Creek 18th March

Upcoming meetings and events

- Region 6 Executive Meeting Strathalbyn – 22nd of March
- Region 6 Ordinary Meeting Tailem Bend – 15th of April

Member attendance at:

- Goolwa Yacht Club event?**
- Coorong Dire Straits Tinny Tour Goolwa – Seven Mile Road -30th March

Regional issues

- General community concern about ongoing dry conditions
- General community concern about the potentially reduced flows coming down the Murray and the potential impact on ground
- Two Coorong projects being rolled out in our region that we are still awaiting further detail on to understand what changes this will deliver on ground
 - Our Coorong, Our Coast – Natural Resources SE (Commonwealth NLP2 funding - \$3 million plus),
 - Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (announced at the Ministerial Council Meeting in

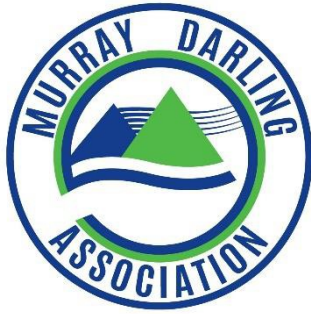
December- \$70 million).

Membership and engagement

Current Region 6 Membership

Position	Name	Council	Member of Executive	Voting Member
Chair	Councillor Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina		
Executive Officer	Tracey Strugnell	Coorong District		
Council Representatives	Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Vincent Cammell	Coorong District		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
Private Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
Private Member Applicant	Bruce Brooks			

Region 6 will follow up on membership interest expressed by Kingston District Council



Board Meeting 384

Region 6 Report

March 2019

Chair and Committee

- Chair Councillor Melissa Rebbeck (Alexandrina Council)
- Executive Officer Tracey Strugnell (Coorong District Council)

Region 6 Executive

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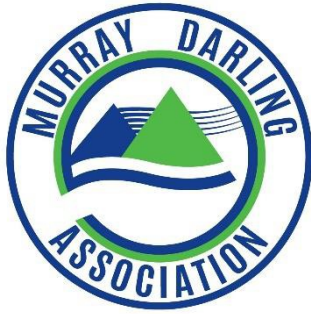
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	Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Malcolm Downie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Vincent Cammell	Coorong District		
	Councillor Miles Hannemann	Tatiara District		
	Councillor Vern Leng	Coorong District		
	Councillor Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District		
	Glenn Rappensberg	Alexandrina		
	Councillor Michael Scott	Alexandrina		
Private Members	Keith Loeser			
	Julie Barrie			
	Frank Tuckwell			
Private Member Applicant	Bruce Brooks			

Region 6 will follow up on membership interest expressed by Kingston District Council



Board Meeting 384

Region 11 report

March 2019

Chair and Committee

○ Chair	Councillor John Campbell – Gunnedah Shire Council
○ Executive	Mayor Jamie Chaffey – Gunnedah Shire Council
○ Executive	Cr Frances Young – Gwydir Shire Council
○ Executive	Cr Don Forbes – Tenterfield Shire Council
○ Executive	Mayor Ian Woodcock – Walgett Shire Council
○ Committee	Mayor Peter Petty – Tenterfield Shire Council
○ Committee	Cr Greg Sauer – Tenterfield Shire Council
○ Committee	Terry Dodds – General Manager – Tenterfield Shire Council
○ Committee	Cr Manuel Martinez – Walgett Shire Council
○ Committee	Mayor John Coulton – Gwydir Shire Council
○ Committee	Alec Lucke – Individual Member
○ Secretariat	Alexandra O’Keefe – Gunnedah Shire Council

Meetings and events held

- Region 11 held their latest meeting on 12th March in Gunnedah. Routine items were discussed along with an issue which may be commonplace in the future. This being the recent open auction of water entitlements. Whitehaven Coal paid approximately 3 times what would normally have been the market price and this precluded irrigators from purchasing any for their use. Region 11 members raised the question as to whether any other regions were experiencing a similar situation. If any other Regions are experiencing similar, please feel free to contact Councillor John Campbell at johncampbell@infogunnedah.com.au to discuss further.
- The Strategic Planning Workshop was discussed and following the lodgment of the application for funding under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program and the possibility of acquiring new members from the Councils in our region. Gunnedah Shire forwarded a letter of support for the **Basin Communities Leadership Program** across Basin communities.
- Mayor Jamie Chaffey attended the Local Government Debate – Q&A session in Sydney on 8 March. Gunnedah Shire had one of their submitted questions selected to be asked at the Local Government Debate. The question being “What is your party’s plan to ensure sufficient water resources for regional growth?” Mayor Chaffey addressed the panel on the day with the following:

As you are aware severe drought compounded by the socio-economic impacts of changing water availability are hitting our regional communities hard, and the next phase of the implementation of the Basin Plan is set to be the most challenging yet. There is even a [bill currently before the parliament to repeal the 1500GL cap on buybacks](#).

- *In a [2017 Report prepared by Aither Economics](#) for the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries – Water it was identified that the Basin Plan does not account for*

cumulative or aggregate impacts on our regions of the implementation of entire programs in water reform.

- *[Ken Matthew's Independent investigation](#) into NSW water management and compliance identified one of the most significant risks to stable water reforms was failure to allocate financial and staff resources to the tasks, noting that **reforms go nowhere without the resources to complete the work.***
- *The [Productivity Commission in 2019](#) identified that deficiencies in the way that Governments have approached implementation of the Plan have caused considerable concern in many Basin communities, leaving a legacy of community distrust, which the Commission considers is another risk to our communities.*

The MDA, the peak body for local government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin, is currently calling on governments to provide resources and a commitment that all [levels will work together to deliver integrated plans for supply projects, and stable, non-partisan initiatives](#) to ensure water security to support our regional communities at a time of changing policy, drought and electoral instability.

Upcoming meetings and events

- Region 11 will hold their next on Tuesday 7 May.

Regional issues

- Please notify Region Chair of any Issues which may be of concern so that appropriate action can be taken.

Membership and engagement

- Councillor Frances Young from Gwydir Shire Council was elected as Region Executive at the March meeting.



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Federal Member for Maranoa



Ref: MC18-036135

30 JAN 2019

Cr David Thurley
National President
Murray Darling Association
463 High Street
ECHUCA VIC 3564

Dear Cr Thurley

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 November 2018 regarding the development of a framework for assessing socio-economic impacts for the recovery of 450 gigalitres of water through efficiency measures. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Firstly, I wish to recognise the significant contribution the Murray-Darling Association (MDA) brings through its representation of local government and communities on Basin Plan issues. I thank you for the MDA's feedback on potential additional criteria for the efficiency measures program as provided at the meeting with my Department in Echuca on 15 November 2018. I also thank you for your written submission on the additional criteria and the assessment process for efficiency measures, and note that this submission is now published on the Department's website.

As advised in my previous correspondence to the MDA of 25 June 2018 (MS18-000695 is enclosed for your reference), I understand that the MDA's proposal, developed in partnership with CSIRO and the University of Canberra would initially involve the development of a socio-economic assessment framework. Your proposal noted that this framework could be used for assessing efficiency measures, assessing other sustainable diversion limit adjustment projects, and long-term policy and program development for structural adjustment and regional development assessment.

With regard to your request for funding for the project proposal, my department has reviewed the proposal and considers that this framework, as it currently stands, duplicates other work being undertaken on assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the Basin Plan. My Department has developed a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement framework for efficiency measures to be published in early 2019, and this will include methods for assessing long-term aggregate socio-economic impacts. I note also the MDBA's analysis of socio-economic impacts of the Basin Plan across 40 communities in the Southern Basin is available at mdba.gov.au/se-communityprofiles.

I appreciate you sending me the project proposal which, along with submissions from other organisations and individuals, was considered in the development of the additional criteria and the associated assessment process agreed by the Ministerial Council on 14 December 2018. The additional criteria is available at: agriculture.gov.au/water/mdb/programs/basin-wide/mdbwi-program, together with the Sefton's report titled *Murray-Darling Basin Infrastructure Program – consultation for additional criteria*.

Following Ministerial Council agreement of additional criteria for the efficiency measures program, the Commonwealth will amend its program criteria for future tender rounds to reflect the decision of Ministerial Council. The additional criteria gives communities a greater level of assurance that efficiency measures will have neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes. Ministers agreed that these criteria be applied to all efficiency measures projects that are part of the 450 GL, except for the desalination project and Coorong environmental works in South Australia, and the ACT Healthy Waterways project.

States will establish a process to assess each project against the criteria. The Commonwealth will also establish its assessment process, so that following 'in-principle' government approval, non-sensitive information about project applications is advertised on the department's website to allow stakeholders to make submissions on the proposed project.

I look forward to continuing working with the MDA on Basin Plan implementation into the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Littleproud', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

Enc.



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

**Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Federal Member for Maranoa**

Ref: MS18-000695

25 JUN 2018

Ms Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association
463 High Street
ECHUCA VIC 3564

Dear Ms Bradbury

Thank you for your letter correspondence of 15 March 2018 about the development of a socio-economic impacts assessment and response framework for the Basin Plan. I apologise for the lateness of my reply.

Firstly let me thank you for your continued support and commitment to implementing the Basin Plan. The Australian Government and the Murray Darling Association (MDA) share the same vision for a healthy Murray-Darling Basin, and I recognise the significant contribution the MDA brings by its representation of local government and communities on Basin Plan issues.

I understand that the MDA's proposal, developed in partnership with CSIRO and the University of Canberra, would initially involve the development of an assessment framework. This framework would be applied to assess the socio-economic impacts of the Basin Plan to date as well enable future assessment of this nature. As part of your proposal, the development of a framework for assessing establishing the socio-economic neutrality is also envisaged to optimise the design of programs for the recovery of 450 gigalitres through efficiency measures.

As you may be aware that on 8 June 2018, Basin Ministers agreed that in relation to on-farm infrastructure efficiency measures they would work to develop agreed additional program criteria to ensure neutral or beneficial socio-economic outcomes. This work will take into account wider regional impacts and the impact of cumulative implementation of programs and will be considered by the Ministerial Council meeting for decision by the end of 2018.

I expect that the work commissioned by the Ministerial Council will be informed by consultations with Basin jurisdictions and stakeholders including the MDA. In view of the MDA's longstanding interest in this issue I have asked my Department to look at how this process can better engage local government and your organisation in particular.

I look forward to working with you and the MDA on Basin Plan implementation into the future.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP



Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Water

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 9654
DX210098

Ref: MIN052854



Ms Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association Inc.
PO Box 1268
ECHUCA VIC 3564



Dear Ms Bradbury

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION POSITION ON FISH DEATHS

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2019 providing a copy of the media releases about the Murray Darling Association's response to the fish deaths in New South Wales. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Naturally, I share your concern about the deaths of many thousands of fish in New South Wales and the consequential impacts to the environment and the community this will cause. I thank you for providing this information on the Murray Darling Association's position on the matter.

I note there have been several inquiries into the fish deaths in New South Wales, which have identified a number of causes such as drought, climate change, blue green algae and water management practices. I have said we need changes to rules and practices in the northern basin, such as floodplain harvesting and protecting environmental water. We also need to continue the Basin Plan agreed to by all Basin governments in 2012. However, this should not be at the expense of Victorian irrigators, who have already done much of the heavy lifting. Victoria has made good progress on our water recovery task, with over 800 gigalitre (GL) of our target recovered or contracted to be recovered, as required under the Basin Plan. We will continue to support our community to ensure no poor socio-economic outcomes and to advocate for changes in water management practices in New South Wales.

In Victoria, we are strongly committed to protecting and improving the health and resilience of our native fish populations. The Victorian Government has provided a record \$222 million investment over four years to improve the health of our waterways and catchments. This investment includes provision of water for the environment, improving habitat alongside and in our waterways, and restoring connectivity along our waterways for fish to move freely. Maintaining healthy populations of native fish in Victoria is an important piece in protecting the overall populations of fish across the Basin, providing opportunities for refuges and future recolonisation.

Victoria will continue to work constructively with the other Basin jurisdictions on this issue. Thank you for your ongoing support.

If you would like more information about this matter, please contact Melinda Stuart-Adams, Director Intergovernmental, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on (03) 9637 8601 or melinda.stuart-adams@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely

Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Water
12/2/19



The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry



IM19/3822

Ms Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association Inc.
Level 1 – 250 Anstruther St
ECHUCA VIC 3564

Dear Ms Bradbury,

Emma

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 January 2019, regarding the challenges facing councils along the Barwon-Darling river system.

The NSW Government is working with communities throughout NSW to address water supply and quality concerns during the drought. I appreciate the effort put into collating the top concerns of your constituent Councils.

We recently appointed Mr James McTavish, Cross Border Commissioner, to the role of Regional Town Water Supply Co-ordinator. Mr McTavish is working with councils to better understand their specific water needs and how to address barriers to the delivery of regional water infrastructure, including the issues outlined by each Council.

We have also relaunched the Safe and Secure Water Program to rapidly assess applications based on new criteria that prioritises projects with the highest risks and issues for regional NSW. Longer term, the Government is developing Regional Water Strategies to assess future options to manage water security and supply.

We understand drought-affected communities are under significant stress and have responded with the NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package, which includes \$6.3 million over 2 years for additional mental health support.

We are standing shoulder to shoulder with Council's through these tough times and recognise that we must do more to address the second and third order impacts of drought. I encourage the Murray-Darling Association and constituent Councils to continue to engage closely with the whole-of-government effort to respond to emerging issues.

If you have any questions please contact Mr McTavish on 0438 105 426 or at james.mctavish@dpc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

28 FEB 2019



Tuesday, 19 February 2019

Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Premier
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Premier Berejiklian

On behalf of National President Cr David Thurley and the board of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), I am seeking a information on current plans to develop land in south-west NSW for the purpose of economic activation.

The MDA, Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin, understands that the Department of Premier and Cabinet is currently supporting economic activation initiatives via Economic Activation Plans (EAP) for areas in the Murry River and Balranald Shire council areas. It is understood that initiatives include the growth in up to 7,000 jobs by 2030 supported by the development of large areas up to 100,000ha of land for irrigated permanent plantings.

At a workshop held in Moama this month involving over 55 Mayors, GMs and councillors representing almost 30 councils across the Basin some interest was expressed, and further information requested in relation to these initiatives.

Specifically, councils are keen to understand government's approach to the identification and management of potential conflicts between substantial expansion of the irrigation footprint relying on water from the Murray and Lower Darling systems; existing pressures on the resources required to sustain such developments; and NSW government's obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Following resolution by our board, the MDA would appreciate your advice on the following matters, which may be helpful in advance of a meeting on the matter:

- i) Details of the NSW State Government EAP initiative, and any proposed developments associated with the EAPs
- ii) The relationship between current EAPs and the States obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan

- iii) Total capacity of the system to deliver required volumes of water to sustain the proposed developments
- iv) Identified social, environmental and economic impacts of the developments on connected communities, and on existing irrigation dependent industries
- v) The role of local government in identifying the social, economic and environmental effects of any such developments.

The National President and myself would be pleased to meet with your staff to further discuss. Thanking you in anticipation of a timely response.

Kind regards,



Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association



Wednesday, 20 February 2019

The Hon David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister Littleproud,

Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program

We are aware that the Australian Government is now inviting applications to deliver projects under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program in eligible Murray-Darling Basin communities. The program announced on 7 May 2018 as part of the Basin Plan Commitments Package makes available up to \$20 million to support economic development projects in eligible Basin communities identified as most impacted by water recovery under the Basin Plan.

The MDA commends the Federal Government on this investment which, coupled with the Drought Assistance package, demonstrates a commitment to support our Basin communities in times of rapid change and low water availability. We look forward to working with all communities across the Basin in our efforts to maximize the return to communities of this investment.

That said, under the program the Department has identified five communities in the northern Basin and 10 communities in the southern Basin eligible for funding based on a range of information, including research by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the MDBA).

The MDA as Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin has received correspondence and calls from several member councils and other stakeholders (MPs and RDAs) inquiring about the plan and design of the grant program, citing comparable impacts in their communities to those in communities eligible for the funding.

One such concern has been raised by Renmark Paring Council, who were deemed ineligible for Drought Assistance, as outlined in a letter to Senator Bridget McKenzie Minister for Regional Services, Local Government and Decentralisation (attached here) and are also ineligible to apply for funding under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program.

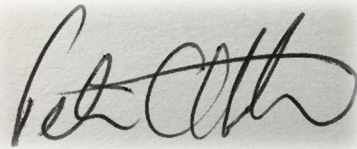
I would be grateful if you could provide some advice outlining the consultation or program design process or other information relating to the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Grants Program that will assist ineligible communities to understand the basis upon which their councils have been excluded, and future opportunities which may be available to them.

Please be assured that the MDA and Basin communities appreciate the funding being made available through local government and are committed to maximising any and every investment in economic development and regional sustainability.

Kind regards



Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Darling Association



Cr Peter Hunter
Chairman – Region 5
Murray Darling Association

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

and

Murray Darling Association Inc. (MDA)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to maintain and enhance the positive relationship currently shared and builds on the success of the preceding MoU (2013-2018). The MDBA and MDA share a common interest in the sustainable management of the MDB and the diligent implementation of the Basin Plan.

The importance of both parties working closely remains crucial as the MDBA continues to advance water reform activities in the basin and implement the Basin Plan. As a result, this MoU and focusses on mutual cooperation, consultation and knowledge sharing.

The **MDBA** is an independent, expertise-based statutory agency. The MDBA is a constructive leader and facilitator of effective water use and management in the Murray-Darling Basin including leadership of evidence-based policy, planning and strategy.

The **MDA** is a Peak Body representing an association of local government municipalities in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria, as well as community groups, businesses, individuals and agencies with an interest in ensuring that the Murray-Darling Basin continues as a viable and valuable asset for all Australians. The MDA has an invaluable role in providing insight, expertise and understanding from its membership and the wider community as it relates to the management of the MDB. The MDA provides a focus for local government and community participation in the major natural resource issues of the Murray-Darling Basin. It provides information, facilitates debate, identifies needs and priorities and has been an important part of MDB management since its establishment in 1944.

Shared Objectives

Both parties agree:

- That Local government issues within the Murray-Darling Basin should be given due consideration in the development and implementation of basin policies and programs. In the term of this MoU there is a particular focus on engagement and information sharing regarding the implementation of the SDLAM projects. However the parties acknowledge that Basin States are the proponents of these projects.
- To proactively engage with each other to improve knowledge and awareness of basin issues as well as providing opportunity for inclusive decision making.
- For the CEO and/or Chair of each organisation to attend a meeting of the other party annually
- To share information and advice between the parties as it relates to community and water management issues.
- To identify opportunities to attend or disseminate information at each party's respective meetings, forums and conferences.
- To consider opportunities to collaborate as they arise.

- To develop an annual plan for activities and projects to be undertaken in the spirit of this MOU.
- To develop an annual summary report of activities undertaken in the spirit of this MoU.
-

Resourcing and Financial Arrangements

This document does not create binding or legal obligations on either party. Neither party has any authority to act on behalf of other party.

Where financial, funding or other resourcing is required for an activity this will be contained in the specific project and/or contract arrangements.

Intellectual Property

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding amounts to a licence or transfer of any intellectual property or information disclosed. Each of the parties agrees to keep as commercial -in-confidence information disclosed by the other party on a confidential basis.

Marketing and Publicity

Both parties agree to consult each other and gain consent before publicly promoting any joint collaboration that may arise from this Memorandum of Understanding.

Review and Evaluation

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed after five years of its date of signing.

Signatures

MDBA		MDA	



FUNDING PROPOSAL

**Delivering confidence and trust
in the
Murray-Darling Basin Plan**

March 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
1.1 Introduction	3
1.2 Why the MDA?	4
2. Project Overview	5
2.1 Project Description	5
2.2 Goals and Objectives	6
2.3 Project Performance	7
2.4 Project Constraints	9
2.5 Project Milestones	9
3. Deliverables.....	9
4. Budget	11
4.1 Project Funding	11
4.2 Cost Benefit Analysis.....	12
5. Justification.....	14
5.1 Why do we need a tri-government solution?	14
5.2 Current context	15
5.3 Political Impact.....	16
5.4 Strategic Alignment	16
5.5 Alternatives Analysis.....	17
6. About the Murray Darling Association.....	17
6.1 Who is the MDA?	17
6.2 Structure and Governance.....	18
7. Backed by evidence.....	20
7.1 MDA proposal is backed by evidence.....	20
7.2 Letters of Support.....	22
8. Key success factors	22

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body representing local government and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin, is seeking \$4,306,929 over 4 years from the Commonwealth Government to restore community confidence in the Basin Plan and stabilise the implementation of the package of supply measures.

Recent decades have seen the MDA positioned as 'the voice of local government in the Murray-Darling Basin'. What is increasingly clear, as identified in recent strategic planning processes, is that we are now positioned, capable and willing to take an active role over the final 4 years of implementation, ensuring that;

- stakeholder engagement is coordinated, genuine and effective
- supply projects are delivered efficiently, effectively and with community support
- the Basin Plan is implemented in the most timely and effective manner.

This project will result in delivery of an enduring mechanism to fill the gap between government policy, agency activity and on-ground delivery.

The MDA is seeing historically high levels of interest and engagement from councils throughout the Basin - perhaps one of the perverse positive impacts of heightened community concern around fish kills, irrigation levels and drought. Local government are all too often left to manage the fall-out from state and federal decisions without the opportunity to provide coordinated input, leaving communities feeling disenfranchised and ignored.

The MDA will use funding to raise capacity and build engagement across the Regions. We will deliver key community and stakeholder events, create and support strategic working groups, monitor and record feedback, and provide Basin governments, the MDBA and responsible agencies with real-time, reliable insight and data.

This funding will ensure that all levels of government contribute equitably to access community information at local government level that state and federal governments currently access at no cost.

1.1 Introduction

In the coming 4 years, Basin governments and responsible agencies are tasked to complete the development and accreditation of the Water Resource Plans and to develop and deliver a complex suite of interdependent supply projects, efficiency and toolkit measures.

These objectives are both complex and ambitious. They require extensive inter-regional consultation and community input.

Much is riding on how Governments implement the Basin Plan from this point forward.

There is still about \$4.5 billion in Australian Government funding left for implementing the Plan, with most of this is allocated to supply and efficiency measures.

If major shortcomings in current arrangements are not addressed, projects are likely to fail or be implemented poorly meaning the future cost of resetting the balance could be in excess of \$564 million higher, the cost of having to make good by acquiring water entitlements plus any cost of wasted expenditure on failed projects¹

1.2 Why the MDA?

The MDA has consistently argued that local government and the communities we lead should play a larger role. We are the level of government closest to the communities, and with the corporate knowledge and experience to work cost-effectively on-ground.

The 2018 Productivity Commission report perhaps said it best;

Continued drought, long-term water reforms, electoral uncertainty and poor consultation and communication processes have left Basin Governments vulnerable to continuing community opposition to the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Deficiencies in the way that governments have approached implementation of the Plan have caused considerable concern in many Basin communities. This has left a legacy of community distrust, which the Commission considers is a risk to effectively implementing the next phase of the Plan.

There is a widely held view in the community that governments have failed to provide clear and decisive directionsetting leadership.

Communities are uncertain about who is responsible, and this has made it difficult for them to navigate the institutional landscape for implementing the Plan.

Much of the community concern is driven by the way Basin governments have sought to negotiate and navigate their way through issues.

Consultation has been inconsistent and inadequate, and the community has often had little sense that decision makers have listened to their concerns. Governments' approach has regularly lacked transparency and candour.

Productivity Commission 2018
Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Final Report

The scope and activities of the MDA go well beyond the Basin Plan, and enable coordinated and interconnected community engagement. We are united in our view that implementation of the Basin Plan, in a way that provides the strongest possible outcomes for our councils and communities is essential to a long term, healthy, working Basin.

¹ Source: Productivity Commission, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Inquiry Report.

The following pages outline in detail our proposal. Funding will provide Basin governments with a cost-effective solution to meet key recommendations of the *South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report (2019)*, the *Productivity Commission Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment Report (2018)*, and Ken Matthews' *Independent Investigation into NSW Water Management and Compliance (2017)* by providing genuine and transparent collaboration and consultation. We will ensure that for a relatively small investment the remaining \$4.5 billion is invested with the confidence and support of Basin communities.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A range of programs will be developed and implemented through partnering with governments and agencies to deliver project or program-specific coordinated community consultation.

Workshops providing education and leadership delivering economic sustainability for local communities, managing business under changing water availability, and regional economic development initiatives will be supported and enhanced.

The MDA's network will provide a valuable framework to engage industry peaks, indigenous community leaders and governments to ensure coordinated and integrated consultation of Basin Plan investments.

Partnering with the MDBA and other responsible agencies, the MDA will deliver 'Basin Plan 101' education for community leaders; enhancing water literacy in councils and communities, standardising inter-jurisdictional nomenclature and developing a stronger shared understanding of Basin Plan objectives.

2.1 Project Description

With the funding provided the MDA will create six new roles that will, over four years assist in the facilitation, education, innovation and implementation of significant programs, delivering coordinated consultation and community engagement across Basin communities.

These roles include:

- Communications & Community Engagement Officer
- Council Membership Services Officer
- Events Specialist
- Policy Officer
- IT Coordinator
- Executive Assistant.

The MDA is seeking funding from 2019-24, to align with the timeframe for the remaining implementation of the Basin Plan.

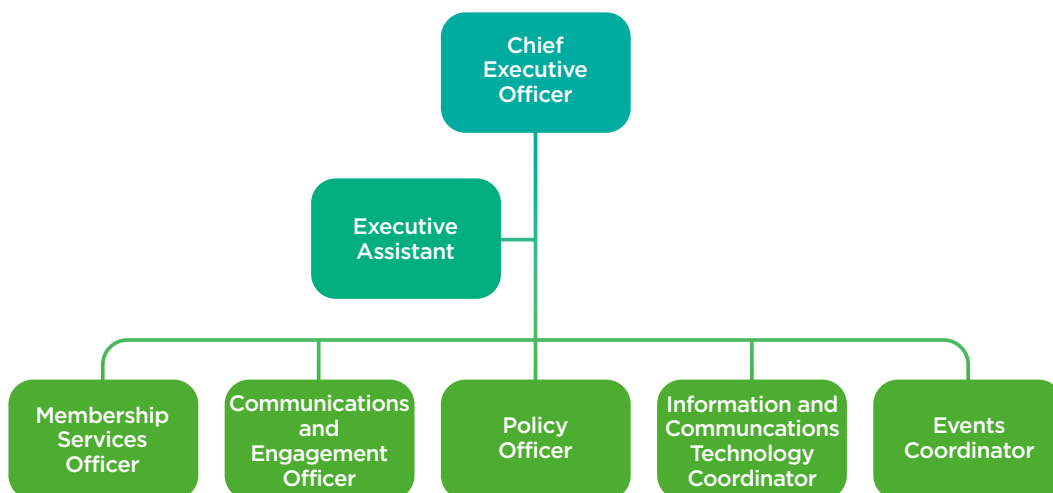
2.2 Goals and Objectives

Funding of the Murray Darling Association will provide Basin Governments with the following outcomes:

Goal/Objective	Description
Deliver community confidence in the Basin Plan and trust in the responsible governments and agencies	Participation in the process at community level will invest responsibility and ownership in the decisions among those who are making them.
Strengthen alignment between community needs and Basin Plan investment	Tap into local governments' detailed understanding of investment delivery and access current local knowledge to verify need.
Co-ordinated framework for consultation and assessment of the SDL projects.	Coordinated consultations through the peak body will result in timely, meaningful and reliable community consultation.
Provide communities with clarity about roles and responsibilities of Basin governments and agencies	More effective processes for collaboration on implementation, generating among all parties a genuine commitment to shared goals and cooperative working arrangements.
Stabilise debate and depoliticise the commentary	Informed discussion inclusive of all levels and parties will minimize costly political distraction.
Amplify enhanced social infrastructure and contribute to rigorous socio-economic modelling	Access to authoritative and consistent data-sets will provide communities with the confidence that their circumstances and perspectives are understood and considered.
Transparency and enhanced accountability for decisions and actions, and costs and benefits of decisions are clearly articulated	Consistent and collaborative communication and education forums, targeting key stakeholders and community leaders will stimulate networks and enable more efficient information exchange.
Coordinated community engagement processes that provide stakeholders with information, analysis and time to validate local community input.	Structured distillation and reporting on local engagement will enable issues and concerns to be understood and properly considered by decision makers.

2.3 Project Performance

The following table lists the key resources, processes, or services and their anticipated business outcomes in measuring the performance of the investment.



Key Resource/ Process/Service	Performance Measure
Executive Assistant	The Executive Assistant will support the Chief Executive Officer of the MDA to engage with member councils and local, state and federal stakeholders across the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as administrative tasks that ensure the smooth operation of the MDA Executive Office, these include; diary management, preparation of briefing papers, accounts payable, orders and email correspondence
Membership Services Officer	Council Membership Coordinator will provide high quality member support services to both member and non-member Councils in 12 regions across 4 states and the ACT, with a key performance target to engage all Basin councils. This role will act as a conduit across councils and between state and federal LGA's, educating, informing and engaging actively with communities across the Basin - ensuring that the investment of local state and federal governments in the MDA delivers services to all councils and communities.
Communications and Engagement Officer	The Communications and Community Engagement Officer CCEO will work directly with local government and community groups to learn from and address the concerns of people most affected by the Basin Plan. The CCE Officer will maintain and grow the Murray Darling Association's digital assets and communications campaigns to support engagement with members and enhance stakeholder relationships across all levels of government, business, environment and community groups.

Key Resource/ Process/Service	Performance Measure
Policy Officer	<p>The Policy Officer will use strong written communication, consultation, policy review and governance skills to articulate complex policy and position statements using clear language.</p> <p>This role will enable the MDA to synthesise diverse community sentiment to articulate concise, authoritative policy and position statements built on and supported by co-ordinated community consultation.</p> <p>The policy officer will also support the development of sound internal organisational policies to ensure rigorous adherence to the practice and principals of good governance and continuous improvement.</p>
Events Coordinator	<p>The Events Coordinator will assist the MDA in delivering high-profile events that build stakeholder relationships, generate excitement and enthusiasm for the Basin Plan and grow knowledge exchange vital to the success of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>The Events coordinator will be responsible for coordinating leadership forums and targeted stakeholder engagement and 'on-demand' consultation events in partnership with Basin agencies.</p>
ICT Coordinator	<p>The IT Coordinator will develop, monitor and maintain our computer systems and networks across the organisation. They will complete the installation and configuration of integrated hardware and software systems.</p> <p>They will oversee our information technology needs including coordinating software implementation and upgrades, facilitating digital meetings and video conferencing, and ensuring the integrity and reliability of our datasets ensuring efficiency, reliability and minimizing travel costs to members and government across the Basin.</p>
ICT Capacity	<p>Investment in our online communication capabilities.</p> <p>Bespoke software as a service (SaaS) and readymade datasets (RemPlan and ABS) will deliver consistent, reliable and efficient communications in complex organisational, agency and stakeholder environment.</p> <p>Reliable, fit for purpose communications technology will be essential to effective project delivery.</p>

2.4 Project Constraints

The following constraints apply to the proposal. Investment in these items is considered under the proposal.

- Consultation fatigue, drought, disenfranchisement at community level
- Lack of interest or investment and attitudinal problems at government and agency
- Governments as all levels are subject to electoral cycle
- Different language and state Water Acts create anomalies and confusion
- Staff burnout, due to limited resources and complex MDBA Plan
- Geographic spread of stakeholders

2.5 Project Milestones

The following are the major project milestones identified at this time. As the project planning moves forward and the schedule is developed, the milestones and their target completion dates will be modified, adjusted, and finalized as necessary to establish the baseline schedule.

Milestones/Deliverables	Target Date
Funding approval	01/05/2019
Project Plan Review and Completion, incl development of detailed position descriptions	30/05/2019
Recruitment and induction of personnel	30/06/2019
Upgrade and application of information and communication technologies	30/09/2019
Development and delivery of community engagement program	30/10/2019
Establishment of consultation schedule for supply projects in collaboration with Basin governments	30/12/2019
Closeout/Project Completion	30/06/2024

3. DELIVERABLES

Funding for this initiative will provide a clear and accountable framework enabling local government as a sector to work with Basin governments by enhancing water literacy at the community level, providing local knowledge and meaningful community engagement on the development of projects, building confidence in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and trust in the agencies tasked to deliver it.

We will:

- Build community support for the next stages of water reform through education, detailed consultation and facilitating meaningful community participation.

- Gather and assess information in a structured, rigorous and repeatable way, clearly identifying where changes within communities are attributable to non-Basin Plan related factors.
- Deliver data and findings in a consistent format across diverse communities and circumstances, free of any perception of bias.
- Provide a reliable and functional mechanism to deliver future programs and funding for complex and interconnected initiatives and response packages such as drought relief, land management and planning referrals.
- Strengthen regional communities through locally initiated economic development strategies and provide sound contribution to inform more timely and efficient investment in the supply projects and efficiency measures.
- Provide evidence-based data upon which communities and the responsible authorities can build shared understandings and face the next phase of the Basin Plan implementation with confidence and stability.
- Increase perception of fairness, equity, independence and rigour of assessment.
- Demonstrate the commitment by government at all levels to work together to deliver
 - coordinated community and stakeholder engagement
 - integrated plans for delivering supply projects
 - effective processes for collaboration on Basin Plan implementation.
- Develop enduring capacity to deliver services to members and stakeholders on a self-funded basis, providing benefit to all levels of government in the development of sound policy and locally informed projects beyond the implementation of the Basin Plan.

The MDA has trialled and compared several approaches to facilitate consistent community engagement in the implementation of the Basin Plan. We have consistently sought a united approach inclusive of all levels of government to ensure that the communities that are impacted by the implementation of the Basin Plan have a role in informing the decisions about it.

We have approached this challenge through advocacy, and by supporting councils to unite and identify pathways to positive outcomes.

Trialling different approaches we have found that by facilitating informed engagement and interaction between community and agency, stakeholders respond more quickly and efficiently in building a shared understanding and progressing projects and initiatives, thereby providing a valuable service to our members, and to Basin governments alike.

Funding will be combined with local government's contribution to employ highly skilled staff to implement targeted MDA programs including education, collaboration and consultation on key MDBP pressure points using extensive community networks and well developed, constructive relationships with local government, industry groups, state, and Commonwealth agencies.

4. BUDGET

4.1 Project Funding

Project funding

DETAILS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Income				
Federal Government Funding	1,484,000	986,100	1,010,257	826,572
MDA Membership subscriptions	220,000	250,000	380,000	500,000
MDA Events	95,000	99,750	104,738	109,974
B. Total Cash inflow	1,799,000	1,335,850	1,494,995	1,436,547
Capital Cost				
Vehicles	90,000	0	90,000	0
Computer Equipment	60,000	0	0	0
Software	150,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Office Equipment	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Operating Cost				
Salaries	685,000	719,250	755,213	792,973
Travel & accommodation	55,000	57,750	60,638	63,669
Office Rent	80,000	82,400	84,872	87,418
Community Engagement events	100,000	100,000	120,000	150,000
Communications/Consultation	54,000	56,700	59,535	62,512
Information Technology	150,000	100,000	100,000	50,000
Outsourcing/research	50,000	52,500	55,125	57,881
Compliance & legal	45,000	47,250	49,613	52,093
Membership & Marketing	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Events operating expenses	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
A. Total Cash requirement	1,779,000	1,315,850	1,474,995	1,416,547
Profit / Loss	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total \$4,306,929 over 4 years				

4.2 Cost Benefit Analysis

Quantifying the economic benefits for this project is difficult.

The following table captures the cost and savings of actions associated with the Project, descriptions of these actions, and the estimated costs or savings associated with them.

Action	Description	Value
Contribution of MDA and member councils	The MDA will contribute the entirety of its network and engagement, and continue to grow capacity.	\$360,000p/a
Access to datasets developed of ABS, ABARES, Remplan and Regional Wellbeing Survey	Utilisation of existing resources and datasets reflecting Basin Plan related and other social and economic change in Basin Communities to LGA and sub-LGA level over the last 5 years to reduce stakeholder fatigue	\$50,000
Increased membership to the MDA	<p>The MDA represents the interests of and engages with all Basin councils regardless of membership status - providing a broad service to Commonwealth and state governments and agencies.</p> <p>172 councils are eligible to apply for membership to the MDA. Available revenue from non-member councils is calculated at \$351,838 for the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>With the regional engagement opportunities that the project will provide, it is anticipated that approximately 80% of that potential would be converted to active membership providing the MDA with capital growth beyond the life of the Basin Plan investment.</p>	\$350,000p/a
Regional engagement events	The MDA currently delivers high calibre informative and educational regional engagement events. This capacity will be enhanced, delivering benefit to Basin Governments and developing informed policy contributions.	\$471,744.00
Targeted structural adjustment investments	<p>Communities across the Murray-Darling Basin currently invest tens of thousands of dollars in 'go-it-alone' structural adjustment and regional development initiatives.</p> <p>This investment will enhance the value to all governments by providing a structured framework and methodology that can deliver consistent and reliable analysis across Basin communities and sectors.</p>	\$42,000 per council per study

Action	Description	Value
Enhanced economic benefit of targeted SDLAM project investment	<p>SDL projects will be designed and implemented by Basin state governments in consultation with communities between 2019 and 2024, with a combined budget allocation of approximately \$1.5B to deliver the projects.</p> <p>The future cost of resetting the balance could be in excess of \$564 million higher (the cost of having to make good by acquiring water entitlements plus any cost of wasted expenditure on failed projects)²</p>	Up to \$564 million
Way forward to deliver the Basin Plan on-time, in-full	<p>A significant portion of the \$13bn investment by the Australian people is at risk if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Basin Plan is not implemented, or b) Implementation of the Basin Plan fails to achieve its stated objective of balanced social, environmental, and economic benefits. <p>One of the most significant challenges to delivering the Murray-Darling Basin Plan on-time and in-full is the social and political instability exacerbated by lack of confidence in the implementation process.</p>	\$13bn
Stronger alignment between community needs and Basin Plan investment	<p>Greater certainty and agreement about implementation process, and reduced conflict resulting from clear understanding of impacts of the changing water availability will enable a more positive investment environment in local economies throughout the Basin, providing real economic benefit and development opportunities.</p> <p>Irrigators will be more confident to invest in farms due to greater confidence that Basin Plan actions</p> <p>Growth in agricultural production, which flows through to agricultural service industries and processors will be enhanced.</p>	Contribution to GNP

² Source: Productivity Commission, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Inquiry Report.

Action	Description	Value
Enhanced social infrastructure	Reducing social conflict and increasing certainty in the future of rural communities has health and wellbeing benefits in the form of reduced levels of psychological distress in communities, which are associated with reduced costs to the health system	Health and wellbeing
Better community engagement	Communities across the Basin have expressed frustration and fatigue in response to engagement that they feel has not been considerate of or responsive to their respective contributions. Local government has sound capability in community consultation and will fill the current deficit in relation to that responsibility.	\$500,000

5. JUSTIFICATION

5.1 Why do we need a tri-government solution?

People – governments, agencies and communities - are more likely to accept results if they, or people they trust are involved in developing the process.

People are more likely to trust the results, even if they are different to their expectations, if they trust the process (incl methodology and definition)

This project is about developing an agreed process.

This funding will provide a visible statement that all levels, and both sides of government are committed to the stable, non-partisan implementation of the Basin Plan, supporting communities at a time of changing policy and climate and electoral instability.

It will demonstrate a commitment by all levels of government to work together and deliver coordinated community and stakeholder engagement, a key solution in repairing community confidence in the Plan and building trust between communities and responsible authorities.

It demonstrates a clear response to many of the recommendations for more effective community engagement common across *The Matthew's Report* (2017), *The Productivity Commission, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Inquiry Report* (2018) and *South Australia Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report* (2019).

5.2 Current context

Consecutive reports have identified, and recent experience has illustrated the profound risks inherent in failing to build coordinated community confidence in the Basin Plan and trust in the agencies tasked to deliver it.

Basin governments and agencies have been riven by political instability, agencies have been diverted from the tasks of implementation by costly distractions, and community confidence in the Basin Plan has continued to diminish.

2019 will see an election in NSW, and the Federal election creating further, if temporary, instability at community level.

The Australian Government has earmarked \$13 billion to implement the Plan, including:

- \$3.1 billion to purchase water entitlements for the environment. \$2.7 billion of this has been spent to recover 1227gl
- \$4.8 billion for investment in modernised water infrastructure, with \$3.9 billion spent. Of this, \$2.8 billion has been invested in projects that delivered 677gl of water savings to the environment
- \$1.3 billion for supply measures, of which \$34 million has been spent on developing projects
- \$1.8 billion to recover an additional 450gl to pursue enhanced environmental outcomes, of which \$14 million has been spent
- \$2.0 billion for other programs and activities, with \$1.9 billion spent.³

By 2024, the Government is tasked with the completion of agreed constraints measures, completion of supply projects and efficiency measures for the sustainable diversion limit adjustment.

Basin governments are currently facing significant risks and challenges in what is recognised as being the hard tasks ahead.

Not least of these risks is the distraction and political instability created by a community lacking in trust and a detailed understanding of the mechanics of the implementation process, fractured by competing interests and feeling disenfranchise as a result of poor consultation.

The package of supply measures to achieve equivalent environmental outcomes using 605gl less water recovery is recognized as highly ambitious.

Failure of key projects would delay environmental benefits and could cost taxpayers over 1/2 billion dollars for further water recovery⁴ to 'make good', with significant corollary socio-political consequences.

³ Source: Productivity Commission, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Inquiry Report.

⁴ Ibid

5.3 Political Impact

A commitment by both sides of government in advance of the election to invest in the secure implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2019-24 will provide a significant boost to confidence and stability in our Basin communities, and will demonstrate bi-partisan commitment to heed the recommendations of successive reports in Basin Plan progress.

For communities across the Murray-Darling Basin to adapt effectively to changing water allocations, the impacts of those variations, including those occurring under the implementation of the Basin Plan must be properly understood.

Ministers, MDA members and stakeholders alike have identified a need to assist communities and governments to quantify and respond to the social and economic impacts of changing water allocations.

In December 2018, Basin Ministers agreed that agreed socio-economic criteria and the associated assessment be adopted as the basis of the neutrality test for assessing efficiency measures projects.

Ministers agreed that these criteria be applied to all efficiency measures projects that are part of the additional 450gl proposed, prior to any approval of projects.

This investment will ensure communities have the means and the opportunity to be included in this process in order to give effect to the Basin Ministers' commitment, and will build unity and cohesion across stakeholder communities and agencies.

5.4 Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is the responsibility of all governments. The timely and successful implementation of the Basin Plan is dependent upon all three levels of government working together with the Basin communities.

In 2013 the Commonwealth and Basin State Governments undertook to build upon existing achievement and

*to ensure that the Commonwealth led Basin water reforms, including the Basin Plan, are implemented in a cost effective manner to support the national interest of improving river and eland health, putting water use on a sustainable footing, enhancing irrigation productivity, providing water for critical human needs, and providing farmers and communities with more confidence to plan for a future with less water.*⁵

Coordinated community inclusion through local government at the local and regional level will ensure an integrated approach, with local government meeting filling the role and meeting the responsibilities currently deficit in the Basin Plan implementation framework.

⁵ Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray Darling Basin.

5.5 Alternatives Analysis

The alternatives to investing in the capacity of the MDA to provide responsible community consultation are to continue to invest in un-coordinated community consultation, or abandon consultation altogether.

Either way, if major shortcomings in current arrangements are not addressed, projects are more likely to fail or be implemented poorly, and communities will continue to oppose initiatives and present Basin governments and agencies with intractable barriers to efficient implementation.

This will mean:

- the future cost of resetting the balance⁶ could be in excess of \$564 million higher (the cost of having to make good by acquiring water entitlements plus any cost of wasted expenditure on failed projects)
- lower environmental outcomes as the anticipated benefits of projects are either delayed or do not eventuate
- community trust and confidence in the Plan and Basin Governments will be reduced further, particularly if there is a perception that money is being wasted as Governments are unaware of issues, or unwilling to confront them
- there will be shortcomings in key arrangements that will have potentially significant implications for how water is managed for the environment and to meet users' needs.

6. ABOUT THE MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

6.1 Who is the MDA?

Established in 1944, the MDA serves as an effective conduit, completing the circle between local and Commonwealth governments, ensuring all three levels of government work together on what has always been the highly complex matter of inter-jurisdictional water sharing. The management of water is a matter of significant interest to local government.

172 councils sit within the Basin, and whose communities rely on the water within it.

The MDA is the only inter-jurisdictional Association of Local Government, covering all 4 states. Offering membership councils representation, support and expertise on Murray-Darling Basin related issues.

⁶Source: Productivity Commission, *Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Inquiry Report*.

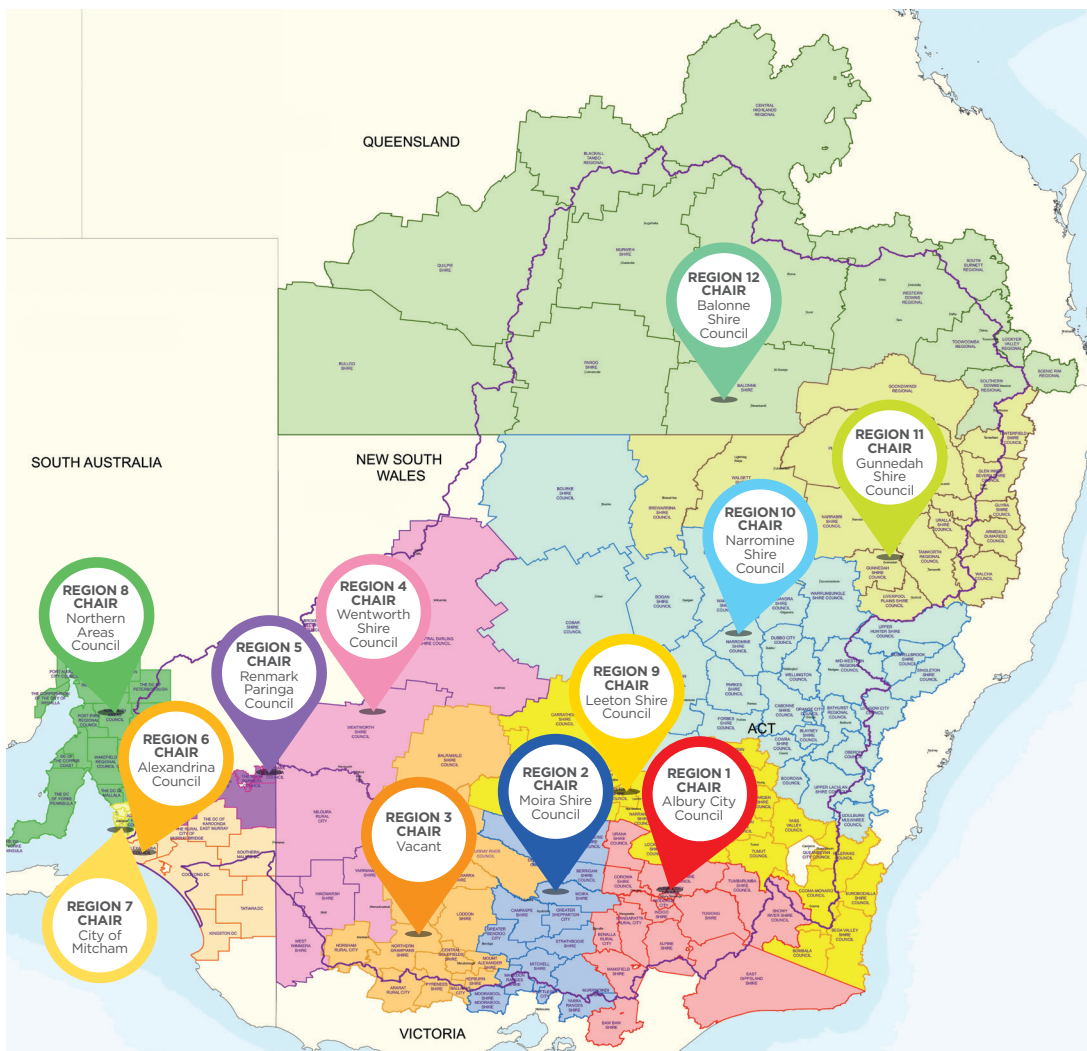
Strictly non-partisan, the operation of the MDA is parliamentary in nature, having the executive power vested in a board composed of members of the regions, individually and collectively responsible to the membership, and each of whom are democratically elected.

6.2 Structure and Governance

The MDA is built on strong foundations of good governance with high standards of accountability and integrity. Performance of the MDA is well regarded and compares favourably with our LGA peers across the sector, and with other levels of government.

MDA is Incorporated under the Association's Incorporation Act 1984 NSW, is currently listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations, and operates under the provisions of its Constitution.

The executive leadership of the MDA is strong and stable. The National President Cr David Thurley has been in the role since 2015. The Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury has served over 5 years in the role.



Together with their board this team has overseen the reform of the organisation and its elevation to a trusted leader on Basin issues.

The following individuals and their councils comprise the regional leadership of association. They are responsible for the coordination of communications, activities and lead engagement across their region. Each regional chair holds a seat on the national board of the MDA.

Name	Description	Name/Title
Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Vacant		Region 3
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrian Council	Region 6
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Shire Council	Region 10
Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association	Chief Executive and Public Officer

6.3 Existing Resources

The following existing capacity will enhance the investment.

- Office facilities
- Transport and communication capabilities
- Stakeholder network
- Strong, cohesive board and management
- Organisational structure - Inter-regional, cross border, non-partisan and with direct accountability to its members
- Social license - local government is intimately connected with local communities
- Strong governance and processes
- Unified and unifying mission and vision
- Strong, credible relationships with governments, agencies and stakeholders
- Legacy - 75 years' worth of history, knowledge, purpose

- Local knowledge and trust
- Support from other levels of government, and sector agencies

This project has executive-level support and the backing of councils, groups and regions across the Basin.

The MDA national office in Echuca/Moama is the ideal co-ordination hub with ample space for the additional personnel and room for expansion if required.

Existing human resources include Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury (B.Soc.Sci, Grad Dip Ed, GAICD, Dip Fin.Svc) who will lead the project supported by a strong and cohesive Board of Management under the leadership of Cr David Thurley.

MDA treasurer Pete George (B Bus (Acc), ASA) is Senior Accountant & Partner at M&S Group, one of the largest accounting firms in country Victoria and works closely with the board and executive to ensure the MDA adheres to meticulous financial management and reporting standards.

7. BACKED BY EVIDENCE

7.1 MDA proposal is backed by evidence

KEN MATTHEW'S REPORT 2017

In Ken Matthew's *Independent investigation into NSW water management and compliance*, he identified 5 risks to successful implementation of the reforms set out under the Basin Plan.

First among those risks identified was failure to allocate the necessary financial and staff resources to the tasks, noting that **reforms go nowhere without the resources to complete the work.**

Mr Matthews also emphasised that, consultation need(s) to be broad-based, and further **recommended** that the establishment of plans to ensure future consultation processes are experienced by stakeholders as authentic and satisfactory.

By settling consultation plans now, interested groups will be able to know, in advance, their opportunities for involvement. In addition, staff managing individual projects will be better able to estimate timelines to project completion.



PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT 2018

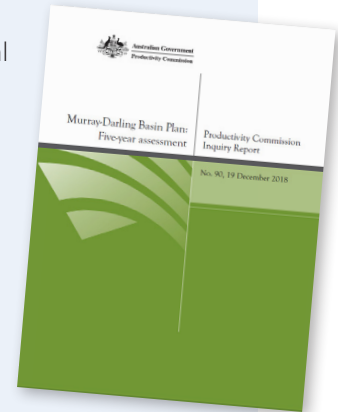
Deficiencies in the way that Governments have approached implementation of the Plan have caused considerable concern in many Basin communities.

This has left a legacy of community distrust, which the Commission considers is a risk to effectively implementing the next phase of the Plan.

There is a widely held view in the community that Governments have failed to provide clear and decisive direction setting leadership.

Communities are uncertain about who is responsible, and this has made it difficult for them to navigate the institutional landscape for implementing the Plan. Consultation has been inconsistent and inadequate, **and the community has often had little sense that decision makers have listened to their concerns.** Governments' approach has regularly lacked transparency and candour.

Almost \$8.5 billion has been spent, and \$4.5 billion is still to be spent by 2024, and the next phase is challenging.



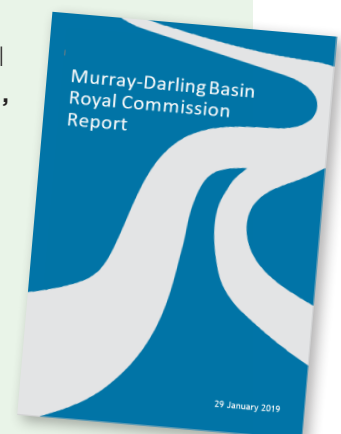
SA ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT 2019

The Commission reported on wholly inadequate consultation process [and] an overall absence of disclosure and meaningful public consultation throughout the sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism SDLAM process... prevent(ed) a fully informed public debate as to the overall merits of the SDLAM.

This failure to engage in genuine and transparent consultation has generated substantial mistrust on the part of Basin communities toward the MDBA and the supply measure projects generally.

Community unease regarding the prospect of a sudden unknown additional amount of water recovery in 2024 is well and truly understandable. **The pause created by the SDLAM, together with the uncertainty surrounding the supply measure projects, has produced a major uncertainty about the status of the SDL after June 2024.**

It creates the prospect of a significant step change in the SDL...and a major disruption to water markets. This can hardly be said to represent an optimisation of social and economic outcomes, nor provide the degree of certainty that Basin communities justifiably prefer.



7.2 Letters of Support

The Murray Darling Association has received support and endorsement for this proposal from many councils and agencies, many of whom already contribute financially to the valuable work already undertaken by the MDA on their behalf.

- Murray River Local Government Association
- Tenterfield Council
- Mid Murray Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- Murray Bridge
- Tony Pasin MP
- Albury City Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council

And more

8. KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

In order for all parties to remain committed and for the Basin Plan to be delivered on time and in full, confidence must be restored in all Governments' commitment to a triple-bottom line outcome, trust and good faith must be restored in the process underpinning the SDLAM, and communities must have confidence in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, and trust in the governments and agencies responsible for its delivery.

For governments and agencies to operate with the social licence and confidence they need to effect implementation, they need communities to know and understand the processes involved, and to contribute their support and knowledge to successful, interconnected outcomes.

For all this to occur, all three levels of government must work together, commit the necessary financial and other required resources to achieve our shared objectives.

As Ken Matthews⁷ noted –

“reforms go nowhere without the resources to complete the work.”

⁷ Ken Matthew's Independent investigation into NSW water management and compliance (2017)



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NSW election budget analysis:

The NSW Nationals have [committed](#) \$1.4 billion for regional water infrastructure from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund including \$650 million for raising the Wyangala Dam Wall.

The [PBO document](#) for the government’s policy notes that this money is coming from the NSW Government’s [Safe and Secure Water Fund](#) and the [Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund](#), which the government legislated last year.

The proposal has four policies to improve water security for NSW as [requested](#) by the NSW Nationals.

Policy 1 proposes to raise the Wyangala dam by 10 meters, with the project financed and built by Water NSW. Data provided by Water NSW indicates the project will cost \$650 million to complete and take 6 years, with \$32 million of that spending occurring over the forward estimates.

Policy 2 allocates \$25 million from the *Safe and Secure Water Program* current budget in 2020-21 to fund studies on water infrastructure projects.

Policy 3 proposes amending the *Safe and Secure Water Program* guidelines with costs to be met from existing resources.

Policy 4 proposes allocating \$9 million from the *Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund* to assist the Department of Industry fast track the completion of an additional six regional water strategies by 2020, with additional costs met from existing resources.

According to NSW Labor’s [release](#), they were committing an additional \$1 billion for a *Safe Water Safe Future Fund*.

Costings prepared by the Independent Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) show that Labor’s headline regional water commitment forms part of their [Regional Jobs Fund](#) worth \$500 million, \$300 million over the first three years and \$200m in the fourth year.

The costing also does not specifically limit this commitment to just water. The only specific commitment is \$5 million for a Special Commission of Inquiry into the Murray-Darling Basin.

Although the release expressly referenced the Richmond and Barwon-Darling rivers, the principles of the fund as articulated in their [request](#) form, appear to contradict the policy. If Richmond River is included, this leaves \$280 million for the rest of the state.

It is hard to get further clarity on the policy, as Labor’s [website](#) does not include policies for regional water or regional jobs.

Election Commitments	
Coalition	Labor
<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$1.4b for regional water infrastructure from Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund including \$650m to raise Wyangala dam wall</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully fundedPBO costing	<p><u>Commitment:</u> Labor 6 point regional water plan:</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$5m for a Special Commission of Inquiry into the Murray-Darling & the Wentworth to Broken Hill PipelinePBO costing

<p><u>Commitment:</u> Fast tracking the completion of Regional Water Strategies by 2020 (30 year water security plans for infrastructure investment and rules based changes)</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded • PBO costing 	<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$1b Safe Water Safe Future Fund in addition to funding already committed by the Coalition to water infrastructure</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500m for regional water infrastructure from the Regional Jobs Fund. • Funding must be expended with following principals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jobs and growth ○ Population decentralisation ○ New and renewable energy • Not funded: \$500m* • PBO costing
<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$25m to investigate nation building schemes like the Bradfield scheme (if matched by Commonwealth/States)</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded • PBO costing 	<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$100m Richmond River Rescue package (potentially part of the Regional Jobs Fund funding package)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100m over 10 years • \$27m over 4 years <p><u>Costed:</u> Not funded*</p>
<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$350m to top up the Farm Innovation Fund</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded • PBO costing 	<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$350m to top up the Farm Innovation Fund</p> <p><u>Costed:</u> Not funded*</p>
<p><u>Commitment:</u> \$26m for the Great Artesian Basin Infrastructure Investment program</p> <p><u>Costed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded • PBO costing 	

*Unfunded commitments means that Labor have not identified a source of funding through the Parliamentary Budget Office.