



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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## Ordinary Meeting of the Board 20/05/2019

<https://zoom.us/j/549681727>

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### MINUTES - MEETING No. 386

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#### 1. ATTENDANCE

##### 1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Dennis Patterson	Shepparton Council	Guest
Cr Jane MacAllister	Wentworth Shire Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Cr Craig Davies	Narromine Shire Council	A/Region 10
Cr Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Guest
Steve Loane – GM	Forbes Shire Council	Guest
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

##### 1.2 Apologies

Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Region 7
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##### 1.3 Declarations

Nil

#### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting 385 held 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Motion:** That the minutes of meeting 385 be adopted as an accurate account of the meeting.  
P Maytom/ P Hunter Carried

#### 3. REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's report

3.2 Finance reports – attached

**Motion:** That the Finance report be noted and accepted by the board.

P George/ J MacAllister

Carried

3.3 Chief Executive Officer's report

**Motion:** That the Chief Executive Officer's report be noted and accepted by the board.

P Maytom/ D Clark

Carried

3.4 Region reports

**Region 2** – Cr Mansfield advised region 2's AGM 31/05/2019. Cr Mansfield warmly endorsed Cr Patterson of Shepparton City Council's nomination to chair the region. Region 2 will revisit the long contemplated notion of the amalgamation of regions 2/3.

**Region 6** – Cr Rebbeck advised of an event being held on the 26/07/2019, MDA CEO advised details of the event will be promoted on the newly designed live website. Cr Rebbeck to advise details.

**Region 4** – Cr MacAllister advised AGM date 21/06/2019. Cr. MacAllister discussed that the MDA board needs to re-state the call to establish a National Water Registry, to monitor and report in real time on

- a) all rainfall, surface and groundwater storage,
- b) evaporation and capacity or movement, including flow rate
- c) interstate and intervalley trade,
- d) extraction, unaccounted activity, licenses and allocation, and
- e) concentrated and foreign ownership of water assets and infrastructure.

As resolved in Motion 9 of the 2018 National Conference.

<https://www.mda.asn.au/source/ckfinder/files/Motion%209%20-%20Wentworth%20Shire%20Council.pdf> .

**Motion:** That the reports be noted and accepted by the board.

P Mansfield/ J MacAllister

Carried

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Strategic Plan – draft

Work has re-commenced on the drafting of the Strategic Plan 2020

4.2 National Conference 2020

Chair D Thurley acknowledged the outstanding proposals and confirmed the MDA's commitment for Region 4 to host a significant regional event.

On Monday 06/05/2019, the MDA resolved the following motion by flying minute.

**Motion:** That the Murray Darling Association

- a) Thanks both Wentworth Shire Council and City of Greater Shepparton for their outstanding proposals to host the MDA 2020 National Conference and AGM.
- b) Commits to host a significant regional event in Region 4/ Wentworth Shire in July/Aug 2019 (or at a time determined in consultation with Region 4) to explore and expand on regional and Basin scale issues including those identified in the Independent Assessment of the 2018-19 fish deaths in the lower Darling.
- c) Accepts the proposal by the City of Greater Shepparton to host MDA 2020 National Conference in Region 2.
- d) Writes to the Wentworth Shire Council and City of Greater Shepparton advising them of this decision.

**Motion:** that the board ratify the flying minutes of Monday 06/05/2019

P Miller/J Campbell

Carried

**10:56 Cr. M Rebbeck left the meeting**

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Budget 2020**

Peter George and Emma Bradbury provided the details of the budget with positive forecasts.

The CEO provided the following comments

*I am pleased to present the MDA's 2020 Budget to the board of the Murray Darling Association. This budget was financially responsible and provides a sound plan for the MDA to continue on its current path of growth and delivery of service to our members and stakeholders.*

*This was a challenging budget to develop within the limits of current membership revenues. However, by making careful use of available resources and activating passive assets this budget will provide the means to grow the MDA's membership services, project capacity and long-term financial sustainability.*

*The budget delivers a modest net operating surplus of \$26,117 for the year end 30 June 2020. It should be noted however that the MDA has resolved to change its financial year from 1 July to 30 June to a financial year that runs January to 30 December. As such, this budget will be reviewed quarterly in anticipation of that step-change, with a revised budget to be presented in November 2019.*

*Membership revenues are forecast at \$249,000, and increase on 2019 membership revenues of \$46,000, or approximately 8 full fee paying councils.*

*Continuing growth in the MDA's reputation for providing stable leadership and balanced advocacy; heightened awareness of water security among Basin councils and the appointment of a dedicated Membership Services Officer (MSO) makes this a realistic forecast.*

*The budget proposes investment in further grant funding application and project delivery, further progressing our strategy to secure a sustainable balance of recurrent and grants funding.*

*Approval by the Department of Agriculture and Water of a \$500,000 grant to deliver the MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program is not reflected in this budget as contracts have not been finalized.*

*Revenues do reflect income of \$10,000 per month from August itemized as project offsets. This assumes 1.1 FTE plus related expenses will be engaged to deliver the project.*

*This budget is a significant step in progressing the goals and objectives of the MDA 2016-19 Strategic Plan:*

*Goal #1 – Objective 3 - To build memberships*

*Goal #4 - To be a strong, viable, self-sustaining association.*

*The MDA still holds convertible assets in water entitlements valued at over \$260,000 at current market value, providing an acceptable level of contingency as we work toward further strengthening the MDA financial position in this and coming years.*

*I would like to acknowledge and thank the work, guidance and support of Pete George in preparing this budget, and for his continuing and tireless support of me, and of the MDA.*

Emma Bradbury advised the board that memberships will remain as a 12-month subscription July – June and will not change when the MDA changes financial year.

Chair Thurley acknowledged the positive outcomes from the budget discussions and thanked Treasurer and CEO.

Income is based on the assumption of Membership fees for budget 2019 as follows

Member Council: \$0.305 (ex GST) per head of population capped at \$6681.82 (ex GST). Under this pricing, the cap benefits councils with a population exceeding 21,900.

Member Organization: \$350.00 (ex GST)

Individual Member: \$90.00 (ex GST)

Life Member: \$0.00

**Motion:** Budget noted and accepted by the Board

J Campbell/P Maytom

Carried

## 5.2 Enquiries

### 5.2.1 ANAO Audit

On 29 April 2019 the Auditor-General for Australia advised that that an audit will be conducted into the procurement of strategic water entitlements following allegations concerning the purchases of water for environmental flows in the Murray-Darling Basin. This performance audit has now formally commenced and is currently forecast to table in Parliament in December 2019.

The objective of this audit is to assess whether the strategic water purchases by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources were conducted consistent with government policy, supported by appropriate program design, were planned and executed appropriately, and, achieved value for money. The auditor is seeking input from members of the public, with value placed on information that deals with significant matters or insights into the administration of the subject of this audit

**Motion:** That the board

- a. Note the advice of the Auditor General
- b. Table this advice before the regions
- c. Provide any relevant input or information that deals with significant matters or insights into the administration of the subject of this audit.

P Hunter / P Maytom

Carried

### 5.2.2 Royal Commission

A Bill for an Act to establish an inquiry into the management of the Murray Darling Basin, and for related purposes is prepared and waits in the register of legislation before the senate. It is currently proposed as an enquiry which has the same powers as a Royal Commission. It is anticipated that the senate will seek the numbers to support the Bill on the reformation of government after the election.

Discussions concurred that the MDA should not yet determine a position on the call for a Commonwealth Royal Commission, but wait to see how positions evolve post election.

**Motion:** the MDA

- a. Note the Bill for an Act to establish an inquiry into the management of the Murray Darling Basin, allowing time for the Board to digest the information
- b. Consider this issue at upcoming region meetings, and consult with member councils
- c. Consider a position on the issue at the July or after board meeting

### 5.2.3 Position paper by Almond Board of Australia

Cr MacAllister suggested the MDA consider a media statement and position paper released by the Almond Board of Australia as an item of extraordinary general business and proposed a motion to express our support for the ABA's sentiments. The media release and position statement were distributed to the board during the month, and discussions ensued.

**MOTION:** THAT the board of the MDA

- a) write to Almond Board Of Australia congratulating them on their leadership shown in calling for a moratorium on all new water use licenses for greenfield irrigation developments pending a review of the system's capacity to deliver water to support more development, without adverse third-party or environmental impact, highlighting the alignment between this position and that of the MDA, and
- b) calls on state government to promote greater level of consultation with local councils in the approval process for agricultural and water dependent development applications to ensure consistency of oversight of water supply and quality issues. And
- c) prepare a detailed position statement and motion on this matter for consideration at the National Conference 2019.

Moved J MacAllister      Seconded P Maytom

**FURTHER:** The issue of the MDA's ownership of permanent water entitlements for investment purposes was also raised at the board meeting. This is an issue that the board have long recognized as an inconsistency between what the MDA stands for – responsible and transparent water trading rules that support the social, environmental, economic and productive capacity of Basin communities – and what we do: to own and trade water as a non-water user. It was agreed that it will be difficult for the MDA to develop a meaningful advocacy platform on this issue while we hold water entitlements.

The MDA currently holds 18ML in SA Murray currently valued at \$5800-\$6000/ML, and 29ML in Vic Murray 7 currently valued at \$5400-\$5550/ML a total of 47ML water entitlement valued at approximately \$263,900. Consistent with several discussions by the board, including at today's board meeting, the CEO recommended that the MDA sell the water entitlements and hold the proceeds in a fixed term deposit pending determination of any alternate investment strategy.

A Flying Minute will be distributed to reflect this objective.

### 5.3 MOU with LandCare NSW

At a meeting on Monday 13/05/2019 in Sydney the CEO of the MDA held discussions with Adrian Zammit CEO of Landcare NSW Inc.

The objective and outcome were to build the relationship between the organisations. Discussions emerged to consider an MOU between the two organisations.

**Motion:** That the MDA enter into discussions with Landcare NSW to develop an MOU to identify and pursue shared objectives and project opportunities.

J MacAllister/Paul Maytom

Carried

### 5.4 National Farmers Federation.

The National Farmers Federation has created a plan, endorsed by both sides of politics to achieve their Vision To exceed \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030.

This vision brings with it many challenges and opportunities, risks and potential benefits for our communities, our economies, our councils and regions, our river systems, and our landscapes.

It will be important that local government and the communities we represent at a Basin scale are involved on the pathway to achieving this vision to ensure that the roadmap effectively navigates the opportunities, risks and challenges posed by limitations on and changes to water availability, social fabric of regional communities, and environmental impacts.

CEO encouraged all Board Members to read over the National Farmers Federation – Roadmap 2030  
Cr MacAllister requested that further background information and annual reports be disseminated to the Board Members. Cr MacAllister recommended contact being made with the “Wetland working group” and local regional Indigenous Organisation as networking opportunities.

**Motion:** The MDA Board

- a. Note the National Farmers Federation Roadmap 2030
- b. Write to the NFF acknowledging their vision and invite the development of relationships with the MDA to provide meaningful input as the plan navigates the opportunities, risks and challenges posed by limitations on and changes to water availability, social fabric of regional communities, and environmental impacts.
- c. Require the dissemination of NFF annual report

J MacAllister/J Campbell

Carried

**11.26am Chair D. Thurley left the meeting and Cr. P. Hunter resumed the meeting as acting Chair.**

**11.27am Cr P Miller left the meeting**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 Motions from National Conference 2018 - MDBA

Response to 2018 MDA Conference motions 5.1; 5.4; 5.6; 5.8; 5.12; 5.14; 5.17; 5.18. has been received from Phillip Glyde, Chief Executive, Murray Darling Basin Authority (copies attached).

The attached correspondence has been received from the MDBA in response to correspondence arising from 8 of the 18 motions passed at the 2018 National Conference. A number of follow-up actions will be undertaken by the executive:

- Post/upload on website in the motion tracker
- Analyze the responses and draft follow-up letters of reply
- Write a letter to the region chair, and to the proposing council for each motion, advising them of the response and our follow up (attach copies)
- Audit/review 2018 motion tracker and identify follow up actions required in preparation for 2019 Conference

**Motion:** The Board noted the correspondences

J MacAllister/ P Mansfield

Carried

**6.2 Membership / Correspondence enquiries:**

6.2.1 B. Cassell

The CEO provided a quick synopsis of the correspondence.

The MDA has received a 32-page policy document/recommendation titled ‘Drought Proof Australia 2020’ from Mr. Barry Cassell.

**Motion:** That the MDA

- note the correspondence from Mr Cassell
- write to Mr Cassell acknowledging his work and pointing out that while the MDA cannot support the propositions contained in the document without further investigation into their merits, we commend his obvious commitment to a healthy working Basin.

D Clark / P Maytom

Carried

#### 6.2.2 A Miller

The CEO provided a quick synopsis of the correspondence.

Mr. Miller is seeking support from the MDA in the process of forming a management company and asks the MDA to consider an offer of becoming a shareholder and hold managing status within that company. Mr. Cassell envisages “a company that is not controlled by any large company such as Lend Lease but by those with an immediate interest and having the resources to build small dams and local roads etc.”

**Motion:** That the MDA

- a) note the correspondence from Mr Miller
- b) write to Mr Miller acknowledging his work and pointing out that while the MDA is not in a position to offer our support for the endeavor, we commend his obvious commitment to a healthy working Basin and to affordable, sustainable housing.

J MacAllister / D Clark

Carried

#### 6.2.3 P Hams

Mr Phillip Hams contacted the MDA to enquire about becoming a member. Phillip Hams lives in the Kimberly and is the Development Manager for GoGo Station, located on the Fitzroy River.

Gogo Station was, in 2017 seeking approval from the WA government to use 50 gegalitres of water a year to irrigate fodder crops in the Kimberley, with Mr Hams reported as describing the plan as a "modest use" of water from the Fitzroy Valley.

Emma sent an email to Phillip that included relevant membership information.

**Recommendation:**

Mr Hams clearly has an interest in water management and irrigated agriculture. No clear indication that Mr Hams will gain or contribute value from current membership to the MDA, and as there has been no further response from Mr Hams, this enquiry is now closed out. No action required by MDA other than to note Mr Hams' enquiry.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

### 7.1 Membership Growth Strategy

Consistent with the MDA Organization and Human Resource Plan 2020, Cathy has moved into the position of Membership Services Officer (MSO). The MSO will provide direct support to the region Executive Committees to build membership and engagement, with a key performance priority to convert membership enquiries into current membership, and to support the regions and the members to benefit from that engagement. The region chairs are asked to workshop the following information to assist that process

#### 7.1.1 FAQ and achievements

- Review draft FAQ's (attached).
- Workshop a list of the MDA's achievements we can point to.
- The CEO discussed future promotion of the MDA requiring resources to highlight the

effectiveness and reason for membership growth.

**ACTION:** Localized feedback required from all Chairs as to their thoughts on the achievements of the MDA

### **7.1.2 Region Executive**

The MDA Constitution Part 5 – Regions outlines the role and composition of the regions.

The constitution requires the regions to elect annually a region executive made up of a chair plus not less than two and not more than 5 Region Executive members. The Region Executive has responsibility to facilitate and implement the various roles of the region and may, if considered appropriate, seek support from members to provide assistance including involvement through sub-committees as is thought fit.

The Region Chairs are asked to confirm contact details of Region Executive teams, and to identify the level of service, and engagement expected with the MSO.

Region 9 and 4 explained that they are experiencing difficulties in securing regional executive teams.

#### **ACTION:**

- a. MDA Executive team to discuss possible options by way of workshopping/forum to discuss MDA process to assist those regions encountering problems. CEO advised that operationally when executive teams are implemented better workflows occur.
- b. Those regions where Executive teams are implemented and are effective, MDA staff to follow up to ensure that all teams are identified.

### **7.1.3 Common items for Regional Agendas**

To provide consistency of issues considered, national exec considering preparing monthly/bi-monthly agenda recommendations. And briefing notes. What else?

### **7.1.4 Region meeting agenda template and process – Video conferencing**

Agenda template attached

### **7.1.5 384 Item 7 - Membership approval process**

Preliminary draft attached for comment. Guidance sought from members on process for considering applications from outside the Basin before a final draft is provided for approval.

Suggested that consideration be given to accepting membership applications from members at large – ie: those not located within an existing region of the MDA.

## **8 STRATEGY/EVENTS**

8.1 ALGA 2019

8.2 MDA Board meeting in Canberra 19 June 2019

Board members noted.

**12.05pm** CR John Campbell left the Meeting

#### **Request: Region 2**

Cr. Mansfield has requested that participation and inclusion on the speaker program be a Hydrologist to discuss the movement of water in the whole of the Murray Darling Basin.

**ACTION:** MDA Executive team to follow up.

**CLOSE** - Meeting closed 12:10pm



# Balance Sheet

## MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED As at 31 May 2019

31 May 2019      31 May 2018

### Assets

	31 May 2019	31 May 2018
<b>Bank</b>		
ANZ Business Extra ...6893	83,707	23,828
ANZ Commercial Credit Card 359	3,647	3,677
ANZ MDF Gift #9052	1,741	1,606
ANZ MDF Ops #7503	4	4
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>89,098</b>	<b>29,115</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
LGFA 01 Account	-	42,282
LGFA 01 Environmental Fund	-	2,497
Trade Debtors	4,647	193
Trade Debtors Original	-	75
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,647</b>	<b>45,047</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Art Work at Valuation	5,000	5,000
Computers	2,280	2,280
Computers Accumulated Depreciation	(2,807)	(474)
Low Value Pool	1,761	1,761
Low Value Pool Accumulated Depreciation	(1,411)	(1,271)
Motor Vehicles	-	34,718
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Depreciation	-	(21,865)
Office Equipment	4,798	4,798
Office Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	(2,521)	(2,331)
Software At Cost	23,300	16,550
Software at Cost Accumulated Depreciation	(8,040)	(4,407)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>22,361</b>	<b>34,760</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
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
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>242,825</b>	<b>169,267</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>358,931</b>	<b>278,189</b>

### Liabilities

	31 May 2019	31 May 2018
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
GST	(6,663)	829
Rounding	115	115
Trade Creditors	8,935	1,176
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>2,120</b>

# Balance Sheet

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	31 May 2019	31 May 2018
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Annual Leave Benefit	15,072	10,911
Debenture Loan	1,500	1,500
Hire Purchase Liability	-	2,332
Hire Purchase Unexpired Charges	-	95
Month-end accruals	3,000	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	11,260	13,036
Superannuation payable	7,687	8,251
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>38,519</b>	<b>36,125</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>40,906</b>	<b>38,245</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>318,024</b>	<b>239,943</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	82,175	25,050
Current Year Earnings	66,877	21,294
Retained Earnings	168,972	193,599
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>318,024</b>	<b>239,943</b>

# Profit and Loss

## MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED 1 Apr 2019 to 30 Apr 2019

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
<b>Income</b>								
Conference Income	-	-	-	0.0%	97,130	75,000	22,130▲	29.5%▲
Donation/Gift Income	10	5	5▲	100.0%▲	180	50	130▲	260.0%▲
Income - Memberships	-	-	-	0.0%	214,074	249,900	(35,826)▼	-14.3%▼
Income - Projects	-	-	-	0.0%	750	-	750▲	0.0%
Income - Water Sales	62,957	-	62,957▲	0.0%	84,258	-	84,258▲	0.0%
Interest Income	850	-	850▲	0.0%	680	1,600	(920)▼	-57.5%▼
Profit on Sale of Assets	-	-	-	0.0%	2,925	-	2,925▲	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>63,817</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63,812</b>	<b>1276230.8%</b>	<b>399,996</b>	<b>326,550</b>	<b>73,446</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>63,817</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63,812</b>	<b>1276231.0%</b>	<b>399,996</b>	<b>326,550</b>	<b>73,446</b>	<b>22.0%</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>								
Accounting/Bookeeping Fees	-	35	(35)▼	-100.0%▼	-	350	(350)▼	-100.0%▼
Administration Assistance	-	-	-	0.0%	782	-	782▲	0.0%
Advertising & Marketing	795	-	795▲	0.0%	12,326	7,000	5,326▲	76.1%▲
Bank Fees	61	50	11▲	22.0%▲	917	500	417▲	83.4%▲
Business Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	976	408	568▲	139.3%▲
Computer Expenses	255	100	155▲	155.5%▲	5,797	1,000	4,797▲	479.7%▲
Conference Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	34,204	26,000	8,204▲	31.6%▲
Depreciation - Computer	-	-	-	0.0%	2,247	-	2,247▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	-	-	-	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	-	-	-	0.0%	164	-	164▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Software	-	-	-	0.0%	3,089	-	3,089▲	0.0%
Engagement and Communications	(195)	300	(495)▼	-165.0%▼	3,546	3,000	546▲	18.2%▲
Events Expenses	-	-	-	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	-	-	-	0.0%	254	-	254▲	0.0%
General Repairs & Maintenance	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	217	500	(283)▼	-56.7%▼
Licences and Subscriptions	-	100	(100)▼	-100.0%▼	3,245	1,000	2,245▲	224.5%▲
Management Consulting Fees	-	-	-	0.0%	7,771	-	7,771▲	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Fuel/Oil	-	320	(320)▼	-100.0%▼	1,932	3,200	(1,268)▼	-39.6%▼
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%	842	380	462▲	121.5%▲
Motor Vehicle Registration	-	-	-	0.0%	162	690	(528)▼	-76.5%▼
Other Expense	-	-	-	0.0%	592	-	592▲	0.0%
Parking/Tolls Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	442	-	442▲	0.0%
Postage	182	120	62▲	51.6%▲	1,431	1,200	231▲	19.2%▲
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%	11,250	10,000	1,250▲	12.5%▲
Printing	-	150	(150)▼	-100.0%▼	366	1,500	(1,134)▼	-75.6%▼
Pro Indemnity Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	-	811	(811)▼	-100.0%▼
Professional Fees	6,050	-	6,050▲	0.0%	12,882	5,500	7,382▲	134.2%▲
Public Liability Insurance	-	-	-	0.0%	1,555	650	905▲	139.2%▲
Staff Amenities	-	50	(50)▼	-100.0%▼	312	500	(188)▼	-37.6%▼

# 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	-	75	(75)▼	-100.0%▼	910	750	160▲	21.3%▲
Superannuation	2,085	1,579	506▲	32.0%▲	15,466	17,368	(1,902)▼	-11.0%▼
Telephone Expenses	249	450	(201)▼	-44.7%▼	4,981	4,500	481▲	10.7%▲
Travel & Accom. Expenses	-	670	(670)▼	-100.0%▼	6,847	6,700	147▲	2.2%▲
Travel Allowance (CEO)	-	-	-	0.0%	1,305	-	1,305▲	0.0%
Wages & Salaries Expenses	22,353	16,620	5,733▲	34.5%▲	172,226	182,820	(10,594)▼	-5.8%▼
Water Expenses	-	-	-	0.0%	802	640	162▲	25.3%▲
Work Cover Premiums	-	-	-	0.0%	983	2,500	(1,517)▼	-60.7%▼
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>32,835</b>	<b>21,669</b>	<b>11,166</b>	<b>51.5%</b>	<b>320,441</b>	<b>280,527</b>	<b>39,914</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>30,982</b>	<b>(21,664)</b>	<b>52,646</b>	<b>243.0%</b>	<b>79,555</b>	<b>46,023</b>	<b>33,532</b>	<b>73.0%</b>



## Chief Executive Officer's Report

May 2019

Emma Bradbury  
ceo@mda.asn.au

## 1. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
29/04/2019	Board Meeting 385	Zoom
02/05/2019	Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program (MDBEDP) – contracts webinar.	Online
03/05/2019	MDA Region 8 Planning meeting	Zoom
06/05/2019	2020 MDA National Conference	Echuca Zoom/(ph.)
08/05/2019	Tracey Strugnell – Coorong SA	Echuca - Zoom
10/05/2019	EMFM Monthly Radio interview	
13/05/2019	Meeting Adrian Zammit CEO Landcare NSW Inc.	Sydney
13/05/2019	Meeting with the Hon Melinda Pavey MP	Sydney
13/05/2019	Meeting Peter Arkle CEO NSW Farmers	Sydney
15/05/2019	Meeting with Murray Shire Mayor	Moama
17/05/2019	MDA Region 1 Meeting Albury City Council	

## 2. Engagements

### 2.1 Landcare NSW Inc.

At a meeting on Monday 13/05/2019 in Sydney the CEO of the MDA held discussions with Adrian Zammit CEO of Landcare NSW Inc.

The objective and outcome were to build the relationship between the organisations. Discussions emerged to consider an MOU between the two organisations.

### 2.2 The Hon Melinda Pavey MP

Mayor Paul Maytom and the CEO of the MDA met with Minister Pavey in Sydney. See brief sheet attached.

A very constructive meeting with the Minister indicating a detailed understanding of the complexities of the issues facing NSW communities, a commitment to the Basin Plan and an appetite to work with local government and the MDA.

### 2.3 NSW Farmers

At a meeting on Monday 13/05/2019 in Sydney the CEO of the MDA held discussions with Peter Arkle and 2 Policy team workers.

The objective of the meeting was to build relations between organisations and to extend invitations to all event programs. An invitation to attend or sponsor the 2019 MDA National Conference was extended.

## 3. National Conference

Regular planning meetings of the National Conference committee have resumed fortnightly.

The online website for enrolments is now live.

#### **4. Administration**

The MDA has secured leases on 2 extra offices at their Echuca premises plus a storage room to facilitate staffing requirements.

MDA currently advertising for a Marketing and Engagement officer, applications close 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

#### **5. Projects**

##### ***Community Leadership Program***

MDA attended an Information/Workshop session via phone, the Department advised that contracts and release of payments will be executed once "caretaker" mode has concluded.

#### **6. Budget 2020**

I am pleased to comment the MDA 2020 Budget to the board of the Murray Darling Association.



**Emma Bradbury**

**Chief Executive Officer**





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## Meeting with The Hon. Melinda Pavey Minister for Water, Property and Housing

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Level 17, 52 Martin Place, Sydney. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 11-30am

### ATTENDANCE

Mayor Paul Maytom

Leeton Shire Council

Chairman, MDA Region 9

Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association

### 1. Current Risk

- Fractured communities across southern NSW evidenced by electoral upheaval in NSW electorate of Murray and the Federal electorate of Farrer.
- Sense of NSW communities and industries not being committed to the Basin Plan.
- Stagnation of regional economic development and loss of opportunity through failure of local leadership.

### 2. MDA Provides

- Strong and stable community leadership at local, regional and Basin scale, constructive relationships with all Basin governments in our efforts to build confidence in the Basin Plan.
- Support for our local communities and industries to adapt to changing water availability, to address the challenges and harness the opportunities presented by changes to both climate and legislation.
- Identification of constructive, solutions focused community leaders and champions of local and regional development.
- Projects in Basin Community Leadership, Connecting Cathments and Communities, education and more.

### 3. Seeking

- Continuation of quarterly meetings between MDA and head of Department – Basin Official.
- Commitment to Murray Darling Basin Plan, and continued pursuit of the reforms required to restore community confidence.
- Formal collaboration and community consultation on Basin Plan implementation.
- Participation in 2019 National Conference: Regeneration for a healthy Basin
- Financial contribution from Basin Governments at all levels – local, state and federal for access to the services and networks we provide.

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin since 1944. The MDA is committed to regional leadership in the equitable and sustainable management of the natural, human, and build resources of the Murray Darling Basin to support thriving communities, economies and ecosystems.

Budget 2018-19 Status Quo

	Budget Jul-19	Budget Aug-19	Budget Sep-19	Budget Oct-19	Budget Nov-19	Budget Dec-19	Budget Jan-20	Budget Feb-20	Budget Mar-20	Budget Apr-20	Budget May-20	Budget Jun-20	Budget Totals
<b>Income</b>													
Membership Income	249,900												249,900
Conference				120,000									120,000
Project Wages Offset			10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	100,000
Temporary Water Sale											23,500		23,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>249,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>369,900</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>													
Accounting system	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	660
Graphics and Marketing	0	0	4,500	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	7,000
Bank Fees	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	990
Business Insurance				1,000									1,000
Computer Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	11,000
Conference and events	1,000	4,500	15,000	20,000	5,000	0			3,500	1,000			50,000
Comms/Engagement Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees						350							350
Fuel	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	3,840
General repairs and maint	0	100	0	100	50	100	50	100	150	100	100	150	1,000
Licences/Subscriptions	900	200	650	950	20	200	20	250	20	200	20	20	3,450
Management Consulting Fees								2,500					2,500
Motor vehicle Insurance				750		0							750
Motor vehicle Interest	0	0	0	0	0								0
Motor Vehicle Maintenance			705	0					705			0	1,410
Motor Vehicle Rego					690								690
Parking and Tolls	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	450
Postage	50	50	0	995	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	50	1,295
Premises Rent - Echuca	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	19,800
Printing	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	350	0	0	0	700
Professional Indemnity Ins				1,554		0					0	0	1,554
Professional Fees	6,500	0				4,000							10,500
Public Liability Ins													0
Staff Amenities	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	600
Staff Training Expense									2,500				2,500
Stationary	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	900
Sundry Expenses	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	600
Telephone	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	5,400
Travel & Accommodation	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	670	8,040
Water Expenses	0	0	581			26				26		386	1,019
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>13,248</b>	<b>9,298</b>	<b>25,884</b>	<b>29,797</b>	<b>10,258</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>14,173</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>5,054</b>	<b>137,998</b>
Weeks	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	26
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>													
Salaries	22,538	22,538	33,808	22,538	22,538	22,538	22,538	22,538	22,538	22,538	22,538	33,808	293,000
WorkCover				2,500									2,500
Training													0
Staff Amenities			0			0			0			0	0
Vehicle Allowance	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	405	4,860
FBT											0		0

Budget 2018-19 Status Quo

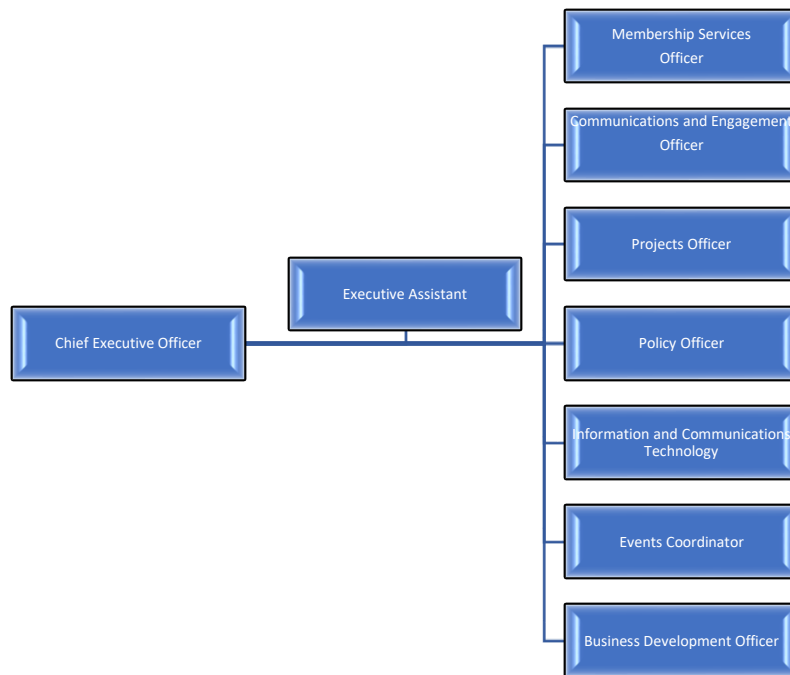
	Budget Jul-19	Budget Aug-19	Budget Sep-19	Budget Oct-19	Budget Nov-19	Budget Dec-19	Budget Jan-20	Budget Feb-20	Budget Mar-20	Budget Apr-20	Budget May-20	Budget Jun-20	Budget Totals
Superannuation	2,141	2,141	3,212	2,141	2,141	2,141	2,141	2,141	2,141	2,141	2,141	3,212	27,835
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>37,424</b>	<b>27,585</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>37,424</b>	<b>328,195</b>
<b>Depreciation Expenses</b>													
Office equipment	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1,080
Motor Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Depreciation Expenses</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,080</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>38,422</b>	<b>34,472</b>	<b>63,398</b>	<b>57,471</b>	<b>35,432</b>	<b>34,298</b>	<b>29,742</b>	<b>32,522</b>	<b>39,347</b>	<b>30,948</b>	<b>29,742</b>	<b>42,568</b>	<b>467,273</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>211,478</b>	<b>(34,472)</b>	<b>(53,398)</b>	<b>72,529</b>	<b>(25,432)</b>	<b>(24,298)</b>	<b>(19,742)</b>	<b>(22,522)</b>	<b>(29,347)</b>	<b>(20,948)</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>(32,568)</b>	<b>(97,373)</b>
Add back depreciation	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1,080
<b>Net Operating Surplus</b>	<b>211,568</b>	<b>(34,382)</b>	<b>(53,308)</b>	<b>72,619</b>	<b>(25,342)</b>	<b>(24,208)</b>	<b>(19,652)</b>	<b>(22,432)</b>	<b>(29,257)</b>	<b>(20,858)</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>(32,478)</b>	<b>26,117</b>
Debtors Movement													0
Assets purchased													0
Creditors Movement													0
BAS Movement													0
Sundry Creditors Payable													0
Credit Card Payable													0
Superannuation Payable													0
Debenture Loan Repayment													0
X-Trail Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>211,568</b>	<b>(34,382)</b>	<b>(53,308)</b>	<b>72,619</b>	<b>(25,342)</b>	<b>(24,208)</b>	<b>(19,652)</b>	<b>(22,432)</b>	<b>(29,257)</b>	<b>(20,858)</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>(32,478)</b>	<b>26,117</b>
<b>Opening Bank Balances</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>269,568</b>	<b>235,186</b>	<b>181,878</b>	<b>254,497</b>	<b>229,155</b>	<b>204,947</b>	<b>185,294</b>	<b>162,862</b>	<b>133,605</b>	<b>112,747</b>	<b>116,595</b>	
<b>Closing Bank Balances</b>	<b>269,568</b>	<b>235,186</b>	<b>181,878</b>	<b>254,497</b>	<b>229,155</b>	<b>204,947</b>	<b>185,294</b>	<b>162,862</b>	<b>133,605</b>	<b>112,747</b>	<b>116,595</b>	<b>84,117</b>	
<b>Debtors</b>													
Opening Debtors	0	174,900	69,900	45,000	150,000	125,000	125,000	0	10,000	20,000	30,000	63,500	
Sales	249,900	0	10,000	130,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	33,500	10,000	493,400
Receipts	(75,000)	(105,000)	(34,900)	(25,000)	(35,000)	(10,000)	(20,000)					0	
Closing Debtors	174,900	69,900	45,000	150,000	125,000	125,000	115,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	63,500	73,500	




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## Human Resource Plan & Organisation Chart 2020

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Position	Description
Chief Executive Officer	Responsible for the management of the MDA and its operations by way of delegated authority from the board, and as expressed in the MDA's constitution. Includes responsibility for: developing business plans, budgets and strategies for consideration by the board and, to the extent approved by the board, implementing these plans, budgets and strategies.
Executive Assistant	Responsible to support the CEO including diary management, travel arrangements, preparation of correspondence, agendas and minutes, as well as business administration tasks that ensure the smooth operation of the MDA Executive Office.

Membership Services	<p>Membership Services will provide high quality member support services to both member and non-member Councils in 12 regions with a key performance target to engage all Basin councils, providing high levels of support to the regional executive committees. This role will act as a conduit across councils and between state and federal LGA's.</p>
Communications and Engagement Officer	<p>Communications and Engagement will provide concise, high level and constructive communications, engaging members and stakeholders through traditional and social media platforms including media releases, Basin Bulletin newsletter, Facebook posts, tweets, written and visual communications via LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube and other established and emerging platforms. This role 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.</p>
Project Officer	<p>The Projects Officer will play a key role in identifying, attracting and delivering funded projects consistent with the Murray Darling Associations current and future objectives across a range of landscape scale and community-based initiatives.</p> <p>Targeting projects focusing on Community, Biodiversity and Economic Development outcomes, the Project Officer also has a strong focus on grant writing and funding application, project coordination, regional engagement and personal initiative.</p>
Policy Officer	<p>The Policy Officer will use strong written communication, consultation, policy review and governance skills to articulate the complex policy and position statements of the MDA 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 coordinate delivery of high-profile events that build stakeholder relationships, generate excitement and enthusiasm and grow knowledge exchange vital to the success of the Basin Plan and other regional and interjurisdictional initiatives. This role will be responsible for</p>

coordinating leadership forums; targeted stakeholder engagement; project events such as Connecting Catchments and Communities and the MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program; and 'on-demand' consultation events in partnership with Basin agencies.

#### ICT Coordinator

The Information and Communications Technology 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.

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. This role may be delivered on contract by virtual support.

#### Business Development Officer

The Business Development Officer will develop relationships between the MDA and business interests and industry peaks with an interest in building healthy and sustainable communities and ecosystems across the Murray Darling Basin. With a strong focus on agricultural business and industries, this role will be highly nuanced, forming strategic partnership while maintaining the independence and integrity of the MDA and clearly avoiding any perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

It is envisaged that this organisation structure will support the operation of the MDA to deliver on our purpose across the forward strategic planning period. Any one of the positions below the CEO can evolve to head up a small department with the same responsibilities. If required the position of the executive assistant may expand to a small department to deliver a range of corporate services reporting directly to the CEO including finance, human resources, risk management, business administration and quality control.

## Office of the Chief Executive

Ref: D19/21296

Ms Emma Bradbury  
Murray Darling Association  
PO Box 1268  
ECHUCA VIC 3564

Dear Emma

Thank you for your letters in September 2018 regarding motions arising from the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Murray Darling Association held in Leeton. Thank you again for the opportunity to attend and present in Leeton.

I apologise for the significant delay in responding to these motions. Please pass on my apologies to members. As I indicated when we last met, we originally intended for a whole of government response to be communicated. Given the recent caretaker period, this may not eventuate for some time. I therefore attach the MDBA's response to motions.

Good luck with preparations for the Jubilee National Conference in Toowoomba.

Yours sincerely



Phillip Glyde

15 April 2019

*Enc MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting*

## **MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **Motion 5.1: Regarding consultation on river levels during peak tourism periods**

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), in operating the River Murray system on behalf of Basin States, is required to maximise water availability and to deliver water to entitlement holders. Furthermore, a key objective for river operations at all times is to contribute to community safety as well as the economic, social, environmental and cultural activities of people using the River Murray system.

This means that the limited supply of water available for irrigation, town water supply and to the environment takes priority when operational decisions are being considered. It also means that water cannot normally be released from a reservoir for the sole purpose of improving river levels for recreation; the water must be prioritised to meet the delivery of entitlements.

The MDBA strive to align water deliveries in the River Murray with recreational needs whenever possible to keep river, weir pool and dam levels as high as practicable during peak recreational periods and at popular destinations. The river operators communicate regularly with the organisers of some of the major events and activities along the river. Operational decisions are then made to cater, as far as practicable, for these key events. The MDBA maintain a community consultation line which can be contacted on 1800 230 067 or [engagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mdba.gov.au).

- It is important to understand that the MDBA does not own the water – the MDBA only delivers it to the entitlement holders, when they order it.
- When there are no orders for water, only a minimum flow is released so water that would otherwise be delivered to entitlement holders is not lost, but the river can continue to function.
- The importance of tourism and recreation is recognised, so where possible, the timing of water deliveries is coordinated to coincide with peak holiday times and/or recreational events. This can only be done if it fits in with water entitlement holders' orders.
- Most communities enjoy the benefits of entitlement holders ordering their water and boosting the river levels. Without those water orders, the river levels would naturally be much lower.



## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.4: Regarding Integrated planning provisions, including Barmah Choke capacity

The MDBA recognises the fundamental role of the Barmah Choke (Choke) in River Murray system operations. The MDBA also appreciates that management of flows through the Choke is essential to ensure its sustainability in the long term to support downstream delivery of water and also achieve critical environmental outcomes in the Barmah-Millewa Forest. This recognition of the importance of the Choke is evident by its inclusion within many of the operating rules for the River Murray System.

Pressures on the Choke environment resulting from increasing demands downstream (both consumptive and environmental) are increasing. The impacts to the Choke, communities and industry as a result of these pressures is complex. The management of these risks associated with Choke pressures require the combined action of the contracting governments, as at times these governments will have to make difficult decisions regarding competing objectives between the environment, regional economies, infrastructure investment and long-term sustainability.

Demand patterns over the last few years has meant that flows in the River Murray have been close or at channel capacity for significant periods of time, increasing erosion of the Choke. The MDBA is currently investigating remedial measures to address erosion problems and, with agreement from NSW and Victoria, will work with stakeholders to implement a suitable program of works.

More broadly, the MDBA, in conjunction with Basin governments, is investigating changes in both the timing and volume of water use, to better understand future pressures on the Choke and associated risks to meeting water demands. This includes improving our understanding of how increased horticulture development downstream of the Choke could affect river operations, as well as delivery of environmental water. The MDBA is also investigating opportunities to adaptively manage water deliveries and river operations to help reduce pressures on the Choke and add resilience to the Barmah-Millewa riverine environment.

The MDBA has a comprehensive work program in place to understand risks and opportunities to the Choke and more broadly system capacity issues and identify potential mitigation measures. Investment in works, such as additional bypass capacity can also be considered as they arise. Should this change, the MDBA would consult with stakeholders on potential options.

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.6: Regarding climate change adaptation

The Basin Plan sets out numerous provisions that support an adaptive management approach across the Basin to manage climate change risks.

A key environmental objective of the Basin Plan is ensuring that water dependent ecosystems are resilient to climate change and other risks and threats (s5.03 (1)). The outcome of this objective (amongst others) is the restoration and protection of water-dependent ecosystems and ecosystem functions in the Murray-Darling Basin with strengthened resilience to a changing climate (5.03(2)).

The Basin Plan specifies a key outcome of water trade as the creation of a more efficient and effective market that enables water-dependent industries to strengthen their capacity to adapt to future climate change (s5.07).

The Basin Plan also provides that a review undertaken at the request of the Ministerial Council must have regard to the management of climate change risks and to include an up-to-date assessment of those risks, and consider all relevant knowledge about the connectivity of surface and groundwater, the outcomes of environmental watering and the effectiveness of environmental works and measures (s6.06)

The MDBA's 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation identified climate change as a key influencing factor on environmental condition of the river system. Further, the MDBA's report found that the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy could also be improved through the inclusion of mechanisms to consider climate change. The MDBA notes that the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy scheduled to be completed in 2019 should consider these potential climate change mechanisms. The government continues to support an adaptive management approach to Basin Plan implementation.

The MDBA also recently released a discussion paper which explains the impact of climate change across the Basin and explores how the current Basin Plan settings actively manage climate change. The paper also sets out some focus research questions the MDBA will be investigating through its climate change program in the years ahead. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/climate-change-murray-darling-basin-plan-discussion-paper>

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.8: Regarding River Murray weir infrastructure

Management of salinity and water quality in the River Murray is a key element of the Basin Plan. Well established programs that commenced in the 1980s mean that salinity is for the most part brought under control through a range of salt interception works and effective land management practices within catchments.

Basin governments reviewed and renewed the strategy for salinity management with the adoption of Basin Salinity Management 2030 (BSM2030) in 2015 (available at [https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Basin\\_Salinity\\_Management\\_BSM2030.pdf](https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Basin_Salinity_Management_BSM2030.pdf)). Modification of locks and weirs is not part of this strategy and would not be cost effective in reducing salinity risks which are already relatively low.

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.12: Regarding strengthening the role of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority with regard to enforcement of compliance

In November 2018 the Council of Australian Governments endorsed the Basin Compliance Compact, which was a key recommendation of the Murray-Darling Basin Water Compliance Review (the MDB Compliance Review) conducted in 2017 by the MDBA and an independent panel. The Compact provides for improvements throughout the Basin in four areas: transparency and accountability; compliance and enforcement frameworks in each jurisdiction; metering and measurement of water take; and protecting and managing environmental water. The first report on progress with implementing the Compact was published late in 2018.

The Australian Government has provided an extra \$9.1 million to the MDBA to strengthen its compliance capacity over the next three years. The MDBA has established an Office of Compliance and a statutory Independent Assurance Committee to provide advice on the MDBA compliance program. It has established an audit and assurance program – for example it monitored the 2018 Northern Connectivity Event and made recommendations to the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator on ways of improving their performance. All of the MDBA's audit and assurance reports are published.

The government has also committed to amending the *Water Act 2007* to clarify and strengthen the MDBA's enforcement powers as recommended in the MDB Compliance Review. This amendment will establish offence provisions for water theft and meter tampering, and better enable the MDBA to step-in and take compliance action in instances where states are unwilling to do so.

On 7 May 2018 the government committed \$20 million to support improved hydrometric networks in the northern Basin and the development of remote sensing and other technologies to enhance monitoring, measurement and compliance in all Basin jurisdictions. This funding program aims to improve the capability of the MDBA and the Basin states to undertake water measurement and compliance activities.

It is also worth mentioning the significant efforts of the NSW government to improve their compliance approach, including the establishment of NRAR with some 40 investigators, and their new metering program.

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### **Motion 5.14: Regarding utilising all weirs within the Murray-Darling Basin for power generation**

Both Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir already have power stations and most of the water released at these sites under regulated river conditions is used to generate electricity.

Retrofitting hydroelectric generation to other River Murray weirs, has been considered in the past, including when the new Torrumbarry Weir was built in 1996. The radial gated structure that was built at Torrumbarry is not conducive to retrofitting hydro-electric generating equipment.

The low head across Torrumbarry weir means equipment would need to be very large (and expensive) to generate significant electricity. Proximity to main transmission lines is also a consideration in assessing the economic feasibility of such projects as the cost of transmission lines to export power can be considerable.

Directing flow through a turbine would potentially have a negative impact on fish passage at the weir as the changed flow patterns would make the fish ladder less effective. There has been considerable investment (in excess of \$100 million) made along the length of the River Murray to provide fish passage from Hume Dam to the sea and it is unlikely that governments would undertake actions that would detract from this investment.

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.17: Regarding support for community-based solutions for structural adjustment

The MDBA's 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation looked in detail at 40 communities across the southern Basin and found the magnitude of the changes due to the Basin Plan varied depending on the type and speed of water recovery from that area as well as on the extent of other social and economic pressures communities were experiencing.

There have been other significant changes in and around the agricultural sector—like rural population decline, improved on-farm technology and drought in some parts of the Basin – and that adjusting to these changes is an on-going challenge for councils. Some regions have been able to adjust quickly with impacts on employment offset by growth in other sectors. In other regions the impacts are more significant and there are fewer opportunities to adjust by diversifying local economies.

The MDBA worked closely with local councils in gathering and collecting data for the 2017 Evaluation and it remains committed to undertaking and sharing research that improves the implementation and operation of the Plan. In this instance, the work the MDBA has done may also help local councils develop community based solutions for managing the changes affecting their communities.

This work will be progressed further through the recently announced assessment of socio-economic conditions in the MDB. The project, to be undertaken by an independent panel with an appropriate mix of expertise and stakeholder perspectives, will also look at the underlying causes of these conditions. The panel will report to the Australian Government in December 2019 and will support the development of community-based solutions, and Government support for, structural adjustment.

## MDBA responses to the Murray Darling Association's Motions from the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Motion 5.18: Regarding the environmental impacts of the practice of running commercial water down the Goulburn River during summer periods

The MDBA works in close cooperation with state government agencies to run the River Murray system to ensure reliable water supplies for communities and the environment.

It is recognised that downstream environmental and consumptive demands, and Inter valley trade (IVT) operational demands, mean meeting Goulburn bankside vegetation objectives may not always be possible. During the last two years there has been extended periods of high flow over spring (2016, high rainfall) and summer (2018, dry conditions, high IVT), which have reduced the opportunities for lower bank vegetation growth and establishment, and inundated existing vegetation for extended periods reducing their ability to recruit and recover when river levels recede.

Inflows from tributaries play an important role in helping to meet system demands. The use of IVT water greatly assists in meeting peak summer and autumn demands downstream of the Barmah Choke. Over warmer months and under dry conditions when flows from unregulated tributaries such as the Ovens and Kiewa are limited, and there is no opportunity to source water from the Darling or Murrumbidgee systems, there is an increased reliance on the Goulburn system to provide flows to the Murray as IVT. In addition to limited options to supply water from the tributaries, pressures on parts of the system such as the Goulburn River channel and the Barmah Choke are the result of increasing demands downstream (both consumptive and environmental).

The impacts to the system, the communities and industry as a result of these pressures is complex. The management of risks associated with these pressures require the combined action of all relevant state and territory governments as at times, these governments will have to make difficult decisions regarding competing objectives between the environment, regional economies, infrastructure investment and long-term sustainability.

In years when other tributaries are available to provide water and there is less pressure on parts of the system such as the Goulburn, there are opportunities for operators and environmental water holders to use water to establish a more resilient riparian zone. With many parts of the system still recovering from the effects of the millennium drought, establishing a strong community of fringing vegetation in the Goulburn will take time and, in the early stages, will be susceptible to pressures on the system under dry conditions when the need to meet consumptive demand requires larger transfers of water.

The MDBA works closely with state agencies and environmental water holders to manage the transfer of water traded from the Goulburn to the Murray in a way which tries to limit impacts on the environment and enhance environmental outcomes where possible. However in certain years and depending on system conditions, opportunities to do this are more limited.



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## [POLICY TITLE]

MDA POLICY NUMBER	#000
Date adopted	Date
Authorised by	Board/General resolution

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## PURPOSE

To verb verb for purpose

## SCOPE

Who does this policy apply to? Is it operational or strategic?

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Constitution of the MDA sets out at Part 3 – Membership Categories the rights and categories of membership the MDA, and at Part 10 – Membership Generally the further provisions for application, cessation and conduct of membership.

The membership approval process will support the provisions outlined in the constitution.

### **Where a person applies to join a Region of the Murray Darling Association in the category of Individual Member**

- (1) The CEO will promptly
  - a. send a copy of the application to the Chair and the secretariat of the Region specified in the application, and to the MDA Membership Services Officer (MSO) or,
  - b. in the case of an application from a person where no region is specified in the application, to the Chair and the secretariat of the region of the municipality in which the applicant is a resident, or
  - c. in the case of an application from a person who is resident of a municipality not within an existing region of the MDA .... waddawedoo?



- (2) The MSO will contact the Chair of the region and prepare a brief biography of the applicant. The applicant may be invited to provide further information to support the biography, including information on the person's reasons and objectives in seeking to join the MDA.
- (3) The Chair will bring the application before the next general meeting of the Region, and the region must either resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be accepted or resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be refused;
- (4) If the application is recommended for acceptance:
  - a. the Region secretary will notify the Board of the recommendation; and
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must resolve to either
    - i. accept the Region Executive's recommendation, and the MSO will promptly notify the applicant and the Region Chair that the applicant has become a Member of the Region and the date from which that membership is effective, or.
    - ii. reject the Region Executive's recommendation and refuse the application.
- (5) If the Region resolves to recommend to the Board that the application be refused:
  - a. the Region Secretary must notify the Board within 14 days that the Region has resolved to recommend that the application be refused;
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or
    - ii. reject the Region's recommendation and instead resolve that the application be accepted. (not recommended to include this step).
- (6) In the case of a Member applying to transfer his or her membership to another Region, the member must put the request in writing to the MSO, whereupon the matter will be considered by the relevant regions at the next meeting of the region.
  - a. Both regions will provide their recommendations to the Board and at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or
    - ii. reject the Region's recommendation and instead resolve that the application be accepted. (not recommended to include this step).

**Where an Organisation applies to join the Murray Darling Association in the category of Organisation Member**

- (7) The CEO will promptly
  - a. send a copy of the application to the Chair and the secretariat of the Region specified in the application, and to the MDA Membership Services Officer (MSO) or,

- b. in the case of an application from an organisation where no region is specified in the application, to the Chair and the secretariat of the region of the municipality in which the organisation is operating, or
  - c. in the case of an application from a person who is resident of a municipality not within an existing region of the MDA .... waddawedoo?
- (8) The MSO will contact the Chair of the region and prepare a brief biography of the organisation, and of the organisation's representative to the MDA. The applicant may be invited to provide further information to support the biography, including information on the organisation's reasons and objectives in seeking to join the MDA.
- (9) The Chair will bring the application before the next general meeting of the Region, and the region must either resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be accepted or resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be refused;
- (10) If the application is recommended for acceptance:
- a. the Region secretary will notify the Board of the recommendation; and
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must resolve to either
    - i. accept the Region Executive's recommendation, and the MSO will promptly notify the applicant and the Region Chair that the applicant has become a Member of the Region and the date from which that membership is effective, or.
    - ii. reject the Region Executive's recommendation and refuse the application.
- (11) If the Region resolves to recommend to the Board that the application be refused:
- a. the Region Secretary must notify the Board within 14 days that the Region has resolved to recommend that the application be refused;
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or
    - ii. reject the Region's recommendation and instead resolve that the application be accepted. (not recommended to include this step).
- (12) In the case of a Member Organisation applying to transfer that membership to another Region, the Member organisation's appointed representative must put the request in writing to the MSO, whereupon the matter will be considered by the relevant regions at the next meeting of the region.
- a. Both regions will provide their recommendations to the Board and at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or
    - ii. reject the Region's recommendation and instead resolve that the application be accepted. (not recommended to include this step).

**Where Council applies to join the Murray Darling Association in the category of Member Council**

- (13) The CEO will promptly
  - d. send a copy of the application to the Chair and the secretariat of the Region specified in the application, and to the MDA Membership Services Officer (MSO) or,
  - e. in the case of an application from council where no region is specified in the application, to the Chair and the secretariat of the region of the municipality in which the council is located, or
  - f. in the case of an application from a council not within an existing region of the MDA ... waddawedoo?
  
- (14) The CEO
  - a. approve the application under delegated authority
  - b. will notify the CEO/GM of the applicant council the approval.
  - c. Provide contact details

**PRINCIPLES**

Background information that may assist in interpreting the policy

**DEFINITIONS**

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**REVIEW PERIOD**

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER**

**APPROVAL HISTORY**

Chief Executive Officer

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Dated

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