



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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**Ordinary Meeting of the Board  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.  
LGA House, 148 Frome St, Adelaide.**

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## MINUTES - MEETING No. 363

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### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Leigh Byron	Balranald Shire Council	Region 3
Mr Russell Peate	Mid-Murray Council	Region 5
Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr Peter Jamieson **	Port Adelaide-Enfield Council	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Mr Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Assoc	Chief Executive Officer

\*\* Cr Jamieson in attendance by telephone

#### 1.2 Apologies

Mr Gerard José	Mildura Rural City Council	Region 4
Peter Gray	Murray Darling Assoc	Finance Officer

#### 1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

None declared.

#### 1.2 Extra-ordinary Motion

Motion: That Northern Areas Council, represented by Cr Denis Clark and Balonne Shire Council represented by Matthew Magin, be invited to accept the role of Acting Chairs of Regions 8 and 12 respectively, and that they be extended full Board participation.

**L Byron/P Maytom**

**Carried**

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

**Motion:** That the minutes of meeting 362 held November 25th 2016, Albury, Skype be accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

**B Featherston/P Mayom**

**Carried**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.1 Region Meeting Schedules

Action item: All Region Chairs to confirm their 2017/18 meeting schedules, and forward details to the CEO by the end of February. CEO to post details on the MDA Events Calendar on the website.

#### 3.2 Finance Matters

### 3.2.1 Subcommittee Terms of Reference

**Motion:** That the Finance Committee Terms of Reference at attachment (A) be adopted.

**L Byron/B Featherston**

**Carried**

### 3.2.2 Statement of Financial Principles

**Motion:** That the Statement of Financial Principles at attachment (B) be adopted.

**P Maytom/R Peate**

**Carried**

### 3.2.3 Status of Water Rights

Action Item: The board requests a detailed briefing report on the value, status, and management options for the water shares owned by the Murray Darling Association be prepared and circulated in advance of board meeting 364.

### 3.2.4 Murray Darling Foundation

Further discussion of the status of the Foundation. It was acknowledged that pursuit of the re-establishment of the Foundation by the executive do not form part of the 2017 Workplan due to a lack of surplus resources (financial and human). It was also noted that caution must be taken to ensure that any future activities of the Foundation w=aligned to the Association's purpose, and were compliant with regulatory obligations.

**Motion:** That

- a) the activities and function of the Murray Darling Foundation be suspended until further notice, and
- b) the Murray Darling Association continue to peruse projects in line with our stated purpose.

**P Maytom/P Jamieson**

**Carried**

## 4. REPORTS

### 4.1 Region Reports

**Region 12** Mr Matthew Magin, CEO of Balonne Shire reported on the impact of water buy-backs undertaken in Region 12 as having enormous and devastating effects on the agricultural industry, associated rural industries and employment. This in turn is having negative impacts on community confidence and the long-term viability of our communities.

#### Direct implications

Dirranbandi has lost an estimated 27% of its irrigation area, and under the proposed amendment of 320 GL water recovery scenario, would be reduced by up to 43%. More than 15% of agriculture and non-agriculture private sector jobs have been lost since water buybacks commenced. In St George, jobs in agriculture have dropped by more than 15% and non-agriculture private sector jobs are down more than 20%.

The effects of the Plan for St George are large enough for changes to the population to have implications in the longer term. The continued delivery of the Basin Plan will see 197 FTE - or 197 skilled workers, families, friends, home owners, volunteers and customers, lost from our St George and Dirranbandi communities. As a council vested in the stability and sustainability of our communities, we find the declaration for the Plan to cause further harm unacceptable.

#### Compounding implications

The loss of employment from the shire has caused flow on and compounding issues, including the significant reduction of housing prices, reduction in school enrolments, reduced business activity, and increased stress within the community. The implications are a further loss of services and revenue opportunities, mental health concerns, strain on support services, and undermining confidence and ability to attract new industry.

It is estimated that cotton production in the Dirranbandi area has been reduced by 40,000 bales as a result of buy-backs. Dirranbandi is almost a ghost town - school numbers have reduced by 50%, 100

plus houses are unoccupied, businesses have closed, and the backpacker hostel has been unoccupied for some time.

The socio-economic report reveals that any additional buybacks will further exacerbate these impacts, which in turn will have further negative impacts on the Balonne Shire, and others across the region.

**Region 8**            **Cr Clark, Mayor of Northern Areas Council** spoke of the importance of an active drive for membership, engagement and participation across Region 8, noting that since the chair had been vacated by Rodney Button, the region may have lost some connection with the importance of the MDA, and Region 8's role in it. Cr Clark noted that the member councils of Region 8 are working hard on the implementation of water re-use schemes to reduce their reliance on the Murray-Darling system. He noted also that member councils across the region are keen to ensure that they stand firm with and support those councils and regions more severely impacted as the availability of water and demand patterns vary across the Basin.

**Region 7**            **Cr Jamieson, City of Port Adelaide Enfield** noted that the upcoming Region 7 AGM to be held at the Adelaide City Council on March 2nd will be the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of Region 7.

A vote of thanks was extended from the existing Chairs to both Northern Areas Council, and Balonne Shire Council for taking up active engagement and commitment to a leadership role on behalf their respective communities and regions.

**4.2 Chief Executive Officer's report**

Attachment E

**4.3 Finance Report**

Attachment F

**4.4 Correspondence**

Attachment G

**Motion:**            That the reports be noted.

**D Clark/R Peate**

**Carried**

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5.1 Adoption of the 2017 Workplan**

Attachment H

**Motion:**            That the MDA 2017 Workplan as product of the 2017 Planning Workshop, held Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb be adopted.

**B Featherston/P Maytom**

**Carried**

**5.2 Annual election of the national executive.**

President

Cr Thurley declared all positions vacant, and vacated the chair. E Bradbury assumed the chair, and called for nominations for National President.

Cr D Thurley                            Nominated P Maytom/L Byron.                            Nomination accepted.

There being no further nominations, Cr D Thurley, Albury City Council duly elected National President. Cr Thurley resumed the chair and thanked his fellow board members.

Vice President

The Chair called for nominations for National Vice President.

Cr B Featherston                            Nominated D Thurley/L Byron                            Nomination accepted.

There being no further nominations, Cr B Featherston, Alexandrina Shire Council duly elected National Vice President. Cr Featherston thanked his fellow board members.

Treasurer

Cr P Jamieson declared that he would not be re-nominating for the position. There being no other nominations for the role of treasurer the position was declared vacant. The chairman thanked Peter for his time in the role.

### **5.3 Social and Economic Impacts Assessment Framework**

Discussion about the need to review a number of details within the project proposal, and to actively peruse opportunities to get the project funded and underway as a matter of priority. Cr B Featherston and r Russell Peat to work with the CEO to ensure the details are up to date, and reflective of current priorities.

Motion: That the SEIAF project proposal be

- a) updated in line with revised funding and advocacy priorities and expectations
- b) promoted as a matter of top priority, in line with the 2017 Workplan.

**B Featherston/R Peate**

**Carried**

6. Next meeting - tba

7. **MEETING CLOSE** 4.40pm