



# Murray Darling Association Inc.

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P.O. Box 359  
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**Ordinary Meeting of the Board**  
**10.30am AEST Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017**  
**Location: Desktop GoTo Meeting**  
**<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/145066101>**

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## MINUTES - MEETING No. 364

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### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### 1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley - R1

Cr Peter Hunter - R5

Cr Barry Featherston - R6

Cr Denis Clark - R8

Cr Richard Marsh - R12

Pete George - Treasurer

Emma Bradbury - CEO

#### 1.2 Apologies

Cr David Shetliffe - R7

Cr Leigh Byron - R3

Cr Darriea Turley - R4

Cr Paul Maytom - R9

Motion: That the apologies be accepted

#### 1.3 Declaration of Interests and Conflicts

### 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting held Wednesday 15th February 2017 **attachment a**

**Motion:** That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted

B Featherston/ P Hunter

Carried

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

#### 3.1 Region Meeting Schedules

The facilitation and conduct of the region meetings is an essential role of the Region Chair. Region meetings are an essential element in serving every element of the purpose of the MDA. They are the means by which the MDA attains its imprimatur; they stimulate ideas, share local knowledge, facilitate informed debate, and provide the two-way conduit for information between local, state and federal government and other responsible agencies. Meeting schedules are published on the MDA website and provide the opportunity for members to lock in and attend.

The MDBA are also seeking to use the MDA meeting schedule to enhance their engagement of across the Basin in the conduct of their 2017 Review of the Basin Plan. This represents a significant financial, membership, engagement and purpose opportunity for the MDA.

**Action** All regions to email Emma their proposed meeting schedule no later than Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Emma to use this information to prepare a meeting schedule that seeks to avoid conflict and sets times for the 12-18 months ahead.

### 3.2 Note Board Appointments

Mayor Darriea Turley	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa	Region 5
Cr David Shetliffe	Walkerville Town Council	Region 7
Mayor Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Mayor Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Accounting	Treasurer

The appointments noted above are warmly welcomed and herald a very exciting level of engagement reflecting the active engagement and commitment to our purpose shown in our leadership, our members and our community.

It also shows a very high level of new leadership which will require a great deal of work and commitment by the entire board and executive to ensure a strong and stable transition within the associations, and a dynamic level of engagement with members and stakeholders externally.

**Motion:** That the board endorse the following appointments to the board

Mayor Darriea Turley	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr David Shetliffe	Walkerville Town Council	Region 7
Mayor Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Mayor Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Peter George	M&S Accounting	Treasurer

B Featherston/P Hunter

Carried

### 3.3 Social and Economic Impacts Assessment Framework – pursuit of funding

Emma and David provided an update on this project.

- Meetings in Canberra pitching this strongly to the Director of Water Division, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in Canberra on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- Presentation, informally directly to all Ministers and advisers at Ministerial Council, Mildura.
- Letter of request sent to all Ministers
- Direct engagement with all ministers and advisors as follow up.
- No one has said no – but no firm commitments yet.
- Meeting with Ben Bruce of Minister Hunter’s Office of the Group Executive Director | Water
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources | South Australian Government on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### 3.4 Report and recommendation on the status of Water Share

## Review paper on the MDA water holdings

The 2015-2016 audited financial statements of Murray Darling Association Inc provided the following information at Note 18 (page 24):

Financial Assets Non-Current  
Investments  
High Security Water Shares        \$166,600

The background papers to the financial statements provide the following information:

State	ML	Class	\$/ML	Value (\$)
SA	18.00	3a	3,000	54,000
NSW	10.00	High	3,000	30,000
Vic	29.50	High	2,800	82,600
Totals	57.50			166,600

Each of these water shares is revalued each financial year to represent market value as at 30 June.

The primary ownership documents for each of the above water shares are recognised by the appropriate state authority, as follows:

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, SA	Murray Darling Association Inc ATF Murray Darling Foundation
WaterNSW	Murray Darling Association Inc
Victorian Water Register	Murray Darling Association Inc

Murray Darling Association Incorporated has the legal status that its name implies. It completes an annual return each year to NSW Fair Trading. The Association was registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as the 'charity' – Murray Darling Foundation is recognised as a trading name.

For some years, Murray Darling Association (MDA) and Murray Darling Foundation (MDF) (previously Murray Darling Association Environmental Foundation (MDEF) prepared separate financial statements. Information from the time-series of reports is as follows:

#### **2006-2007**

Neither body reports any holding of water shares.

#### **2007-2008**

MDA – no water shares held

MDEF – 4.5ML water allocation, valued at \$11,346.

MDEF's Annual Report notes:

#### 5.1 Water Bank

In 2007, the Foundation established a Water Bank to invest in for environmental purposes. A small parcel of 4.5 megalitres of high security permanent water has been purchased for use in the long-term and will be added to over time. The Foundation Committee will deploy the water for works that benefit Murray-Darling Basin environments and communities.

The program is being supported by Brihelg Services and L & K Thompson in Mildura, and Bemax Resources of Broken Hill.

**2008-2009** No information available

**2009-2010** No information available

**2010-2011** No information available

**2011-2012**

MDA - no water shares held

MDF – MDEF Water Bank \$45,156.40

MDF's Annual Report notes:

5.1 Water Bank

In 2007, the Foundation established a Water Bank to invest in water for environmental purposes. A small parcel of high security water has been purchased for use in the long-term and will be added to over time. The Foundation Committee will deploy the water for works that benefit Murray-Darling Basin councils, environments and their communities. The program is being supported by a range of business and community groups.

Under Our Valued Donors (page 16) were noted the following:

Brihelg Services (Mildura) supports the purchase of water for the Water Bank

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (Bendigo) contributed to the Foundation's Water bank through the Pratt Water Fund.

Lower Murray Water (Mildura), a major urban water supply organisation, is supporting the Foundation's Water Bank.

Merbein Mushroom (Merbein) is supporting the Foundation's Water Bank.

Reckitt Benskir Company is a world leader in global household, health and personal care and established the *Our Home Our Planet* program to help consumers change their product use and disposal habits. The organisation is donating funds to buy water for environmental purposes across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Tankard Dental (Mildura) supported the Foundation's Water Bank.

Tasco Inland Australia Pty Ltd (Mildura) supported the Foundation's Water Bank.

**2012-2013**

MDF – High Security Water Shares at Cost \$98,113

53.5mgls (2012 – 37.9mgls)

**2013-2014**

MDA – no water shares held

MDF – High Security Water Shares at Cost \$104,927

57.5mgls (2013: 53.5mgls)

**2014-2015**

MDA – High Security Water Shares at Valuation \$144,050

57.5ML (2014: 57.5ML)

MDF – no financial statements

**Motion:** That

- a) the Treasurer and CEO propose a strategy to make use of the Water Shares asset in the best interests of the MDA for consideration by the Board, and
- b) the CEO discuss the Board's position with parties who have an interest in these shares prior the the implementation of the strategy.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

#### 4. REPORTS

##### 4.1 Region Reports

Region 7 – attached.

**Recommendation:** That the region reports be accepted.

Carried forward

##### 4.2 Chief Executive Officer's report

Attachment b

**Recommendation:** That the CEO's report be accepted.

Carried forward

##### 4.3 Finance Report

Attachment c

**Recommendation:** That the finance report be accepted.

Carried forward

##### 4.4 Finance sub committee report

Attachment d

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Finance Subcommittee be accepted.

D Clark/B Featherston

Carried

#### 5. POLICY ITEMS

##### 5.1 Alignment to position of member councils

**Background:** It is important, to ensure continuity and capacity that the MDA values and leverages the skills and expertise that is uniquely invested in local government. This need to be done explicitly, by way of policy and process and much as encouraging good practice.

**Motion:** That the MDA adopts as policy that

- a) membership of any council entitles that member to delegate an appropriately qualified officer for every councillor delegate
- b) councils be encouraged to have both their councillor and office delegate/s attend MDA regional and national meetings, and
- c) resolutions put at a region meeting by a council delegate must represent the position of the council, demonstrated either by alignment to existing council policy of by resolution of council.

P Hunter/R Marsh

Carried

## 5.2 MDA Business identification

**Background:** In 2016 the MDA adopted a Constitution and a Strategic Plan, both of which firmly articulated its commitment to the primacy of local government as our core constituency, and our key purpose being *to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources*.

It is recommended that the board endorse a process of consultation of not less than 18 months with our membership aimed at considering a change the name of the association from Murray Darling Association to Murray-Darling LGA.

The name Murray Darling Association carries with it great history and pride, but also some reputational ambiguity, and legacy issues.

The name Murray-Darling LGA

- a) is infinitely respectful of the name of the Murray Darling Association, carrying forward a proud tradition and bringing with it all three words;
- b) would bring the associations naming protocol into greater alignment with state and federal LGA's, providing a greater emphasis on our role as the representative of local government as the third level of government in Australia;
- c) would elevate the association's status consistent with other LGA's of geographical context – ie: state and national LGAs;
- d) would provide a point of distinction from the MDBA's acronym. MDA/MDBA confuses many;
- e) would provide better alignment with the widely accepted and more inclusive hyphenated place reference Murray-Darling, in refereeing to the Murray-Darling Basin;
- f) Would be timely and consistent with the commencement of the MDA's 'new era' following the adoption of the new constitution, and the strong and clear direction of the organization.

Any official change of name would require an amendment of the Constitution, which under section 38 requires special resolution of delegates at an AGM, and needs to be passed by 2/3 majority. This may be presented to the 2018 AGM to provide adequate time for consultation with our members and stakeholders.

In order to facilitate an effective process of consultation, the board is empowered under Part 4, section 7 (c) *to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Board to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the MDA.*

**Recommendation:** That the board

- a) endorse a process to consult with the membership on a change of name for the association from Murray Darling Association to Murray-Darling LGA
- b) allow blended or interchangeable use by common reference of the name during the consultation period
- c) encourage consultation on the change at regional meetings.
- d) receive a detailed report on the consultation in advance of the 2018 AGM in order to determine whether or not the propose a special resolution to the 2018 AGM.

A number of differing views were expressed in relation to this item, with a general consensus that further discussion needed to be had at the board level to determine a common position before any meaningful consultation could be put to the membership.

**Motion:** That this item be laid on the table.

R Marsh/D Clark

Carried

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1 MDBA engagement program

See item 3.1. The MDBA are also seeking to use the MDA meeting schedule to enhance their engagement of across the Basin in the conduct of their 2017 Review of the Basin Plan. This represents a significant financial, membership, engagement and purpose opportunity for the MDA. Emma to meet with Colin Mues and the engagement team at the MDBA to progress the scheduling.

### 6.2 Conference 2017 – planning update

Website landing page anticipated to go-live today – Friday 21 April.

Theme:

Cr Hunter and Emma to provide update.

### 6.3 Budget discussion and preparation

#### 6.3.1 Membership growth

#### 6.3.2 Fee increases

#### 6.3.3 2017 Interim audit management letter

Attachment e

### 6.4 Board Member and Regional Chairs Induction and resource pack.

Attachment f

This resource kit is intended to be a foundation resource, intended to provide a point of common reference and practice to new and existing board members, secretariat and executive staff. Feedback is welcome, with additional resources to be added and amended as appropriate.

**Recommendation:** That the board note the Board Member and Regional Chairs Induction and resource pack.

Carried forward

## 7. NEXT MEETING

### 7.1 Face to face – Induction and engagement

Emma to propose a number of dates and locations

### 7.2 Set dates for the year ahead

As above

## 8. CLOSE - 11.45am

**From:** David Shetliffe  
**To:** [Emma Bradbury](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MDA Board Meeting 364 - Agenda and meeting papers  
**Date:** Thursday, 20 April 2017 12:35:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Hi Emma,

Further to this morning's phone conversation I advise as follows:

Since my election last month I have held the first committee meeting for Region 7. There are five members plus myself on the committee. Main topics for discussion included –

Location and topics for next 3 regional meetings. A regional meeting in Adelaide typically includes a presentation by a member council about current water saving/management issues and it is planned to continue this process. These meetings now need to be organised.

It was agreed that a research project be undertaken cataloguing the water saving projects undertaken by local government in Adelaide to reduce demand on river water. The SA LGA will assist in this project.

Some key marketing points unique to Adelaide's circumstance were developed to assist in retaining and promoting membership in Adelaide. As discussed, these were fairly consistent with those you shared with me and which you are to send me.

We plan to encourage the SA LGA to convene another meeting of regions in SA along the lines of those held last year. We also want to encourage water issues to be the subject of a presentation at an LGA conference and we may even seek to hold our own conference about water in Adelaide, possibly in partnership with CEDA or a similar organisation.

You asked me to comment on item 5.3 of the Board agenda. I support the proposal in principle but suggest we should take soundings from ALGA and the State LGA's to ensure they don't have any issues either in principle or constitutionally in regard to this idea. I suspect they won't, but it is better to be sure rather than invest time and energy pursuing the proposal only to run into problems with one or other of them. If we are going to go down this path I would encourage getting on with it given we have just gone through the constitution and strategic planning processes. However, I am not aware of the views of others who have been around MDA and its politics for longer.

In regard to meetings, the more notice the better and please hold later rather than earlier in the week.

Again my apologies for not being able to attend today's meeting.

Regards,

Councillor David Shetliffe



## Town of Walkerville

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**From:** Emma Bradbury [mailto:[e.bradbury@mda.asn.au](mailto:e.bradbury@mda.asn.au)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 April 2017 4:11 PM

**To:** Cr Barry Featherston - R6 <[barry.featherston@alexandrina.sa.gov.au](mailto:barry.featherston@alexandrina.sa.gov.au)>; Cr Darriea Turley - R4 <[Darriea.Turley@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Darriea.Turley@health.nsw.gov.au)>; David Shetliffe <[DShetliffe@walkerville.sa.gov.au](mailto:DShetliffe@walkerville.sa.gov.au)>; Cr David Thurley - R1 <[DThurley@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:DThurley@alburycity.nsw.gov.au)>; Cr DenisClark - R8 <[shock56@bigpond.net.au](mailto:shock56@bigpond.net.au)>; Cr Leigh Byron - R3 <[mayor@balranald.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mayor@balranald.nsw.gov.au)>; Cr Paul Maytom - R9 <[paulm@leeton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:paulm@leeton.nsw.gov.au)>; Cr Peter Hunter - R5 <[hunterps11@bigpond.com](mailto:hunterps11@bigpond.com)>; Cr Richard Marsh - R12 <[richard.marsh@balonne.qld.gov.au](mailto:richard.marsh@balonne.qld.gov.au)>; Peter Gray <[finance@mda.asn.au](mailto:finance@mda.asn.au)>; petergraycpa@bigpond.com; Pete George <[Pete.George@msgroup.net.au](mailto:Pete.George@msgroup.net.au)>

**Subject:** MDA Board Meeting 364 - Agenda and meeting papers

Hi all

Agenda and meeting papers for board meeting 364 attached.

With so many new board members along, this will be an exciting meeting heralding a new era. I look forward to catching up with you all on Friday.

Kind regards

Emma

**Emma Bradbury** B.Soc Sci, Grad.Dip Ed, GAICD

*Chief Executive Officer*

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