



Murray Darling Association Inc.

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Albury, NSW 2640

Ordinary Meeting of the Board
2.45pm Wednesday 31 January 2018
Robert Brown Room, Albury City Council
Albury

MINUTES - MEETING No. 372

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Region 1
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr Leigh Byron	Balranald Shire Council	Region 3
Cr Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council	Region 5
Cr Barry Featherston	Alexandrina Council	Region 6
Cr David Shetliffe	Town of Walkerville	Region 7
Cr Denis Clark	Northern Areas Council	Region 8
Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Region 9
Matthew Magin	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Pete George	M&S Group	Treasurer
Emma Bradbury	MDA	CEO
Angus Verley *	MDA	Senior Officer
Bobby Brook *	Moira Shire Council	Region 2
Cr John Campbell *	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11
Andrew Johns*	Gunnedah Shire Council	Region 11

*Non-board member – attendance by invitation.

1.2 Apologies

Cr Richard Marsh	Balonne Shire Council	Region 12
Cr Darria Turley	Broken Hill City Council	Region 4

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.

L Byron/D Shetliffe Carried

1.3 Declarations

No declarations

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Meeting 371 held 10.30am Monday 11 December 2017

Motion: That the Minutes of Board Meeting 371 held Monday 11 December 2017 be accepted.

D Shetliffe/D Clark Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 **Chairman's Report** Attachment 3.1

Motion: That the CEO's Report be accepted.

B Featherston/P Maytom Carried

3.2 **Finance Reports** Attachment 3.2

Action: That consideration be given to a specific budget allocation for IT & Comms support.

Motion: That the Finance Report be accepted.

D Thurley/D Shetliffe Carried

3.3 **Chief Executive Officer's Report** Attachment 3.3

Action: Board requested a regular report/update on AGM motions be included in the CEO's report.

Motion: That the CEO's Report be accepted.

D Shetliffe/M Magin Carried

3.4 **Region reports**

Region 1

Attachment 3.1

Region 7

Attachment 3.4.1

Motion: That the Region Reports be accepted and that Cr Shetliffe's work be in preparing an overview paper on Adelaide's water supply be commended.

D Clark/L Byron Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 **Policy and Procedures Framework**

The board noted the importance of the further development and population of the Policies and Procedures Framework and a clear process for the adoption of policies and procedures.

4.1.1 **MDA Policy template**

4.1.2 **Policy 001 – Delegation of Authority**

4.1.3 **Policy 002 – Unconventional Gas Extraction Policy**

4.1.4 **Policy 003 – Privacy Policy**

4.1.5 **Policy 004 – Membership Applications from Serving Councillors**

Motion: That:

- a) The CEO present a detailed process and terms of reference for a policy committee for consideration by the board at Board Meeting 373.
- b) The board members consider the above policies in line with the then duly adopted process.

P Mansfield/D Shetliffe Carried

4.2 **Strategic Planning Workshop**

Motion: That the CEO prepare a report for Board Meeting 373 on amendments to the 2016-19 Strategic Plan as discussed at the workshop.

P Hunter/B Featherston

Carried

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 **Update contact details for all water licenses**

The CEO reported that the MDA currently holds three water licenses across three states.

The board has previously resolved that the authorised persons for the management of the MDA's water holdings are the national president and the public officer. This is currently David Thurley and Emma Bradbury.

Motion: That the board note that the authorised persons for the management of the MDA's water holdings remain the national president and the public officer, and approve that titles records be updated to reflect this.

P Hunter/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.2 **MDA National Conference – hosting determination and planning process.**

Motion: That the CEO prepare a report for Board Meeting 373 including a recommendation of an appropriate hosting determination process.

B Featherston/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.3 **Northern Basin Amendment disallowance motion**

Board members considered the Murray Darling Basin Plan Amendment, and the possible consequences on that legislation being disallowed.

The Amendment reduces the water recovery target in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin from 390GL to 320GL, but is now subject to a disallowance motion before the parliament, brought by Senator Hansen-Young. The disallowance motion will be put to the Senate for resolution in the next fortnight.

All region chairs in attendance agreed to support the motion.

Motion: That the MDA fully supports for Region 12's position on ensuring the current 320 gegalitre water recovery target from the Northern Basin Review be retained.

M Magin/D Shetliffe

Carried

5.4 Thank you to Gunnedah Shire Council representatives

Motion: That the MDA expresses its thanks to Gunnedah Shire Council representatives Andrew Johns and Cr John Councillor for their attendance at and contribution to the 2018 Strategic Planning Workshop.

D Thurley/B Featherston

Carried

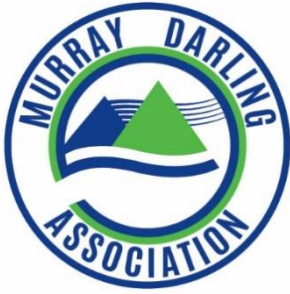
5.5 **Thank you to the CEO**

Motion: That the MDA express its thanks to CEO Emma Bradbury for her running of the highly successful 2018 Strategic Planning Workshop.

P Hunter/L Byron

Carried

6. CLOSE



Murray Darling Association - Region 1 Chairman's report

2017 has been a dynamic year for the Murray Darling Association, with many significant achievements – some of which are mentioned later in my report. It has kept me busy with an incredibly full schedule.

The year has been both challenging and richly fulfilling. As National President I have been proud to work with the current board and executive as we continue to raise the profile of local government at state and federal level in the management of our Basin resources.

As Chair of Region 1, I have continued to work with our local councils – engaging with councillors and executive to build engagement at the regional level, and develop the authority of the MDA to advocate on behalf of our members.

This has been, in many ways, a difficult year for Region 1 with several Council mergers affecting membership. Both merged Councils, Corowa and Urana were long-term strong supporters of the MDA, and with continuing engagement I am delighted that the newly formed Federation Council are now members of the MDA. Tumut Shire, previously of Region 1 and Tumbarumba Shire, Region 9 were also merged. The newly formed Snowy Valleys Council remain members, and are considering the best regional fit for their community. I am pleased to say that Towong Shire has renewed membership also.

Another important issue where MDA has had success in 2017 was the lobbying campaign to have the MDBA maintain significant flows in the Murray to benefit tourism at Easter and to advocate for a system that allows this when Easter occurs late in April when a significant part of the irrigation demand has dropped.

Sustainable Diversion Limit Assessment Mechanism (SDLAM) projects have been released and there are three in particular that effect region 1. As always feedback from the regional Councils is critical if we are to achieve the best outcomes for the rivers and ratepayers of the region.

Looking forward, the outlook is very positive and this region must continue to advocate strongly for communities affected by the Plan. A continuing involvement with Snowy Hydro will be a strong focus as this project proceeds into the final stages of a feasibility study.

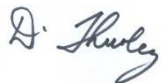
Following the 73rd Conference in Renmark I was invited by Mr Neil Andrew, Chairman of the MDBA to attend the Basin Community Committee as a guest. The present committee consists of two indigenous members and 9 representatives of water users or water using bodies. Representation of local government is essential if we are to get good outcomes right across the Basin.

I was invited by RMS to inspect the stretch of the Murray between Corowa and Bundalong where there is a proposed ban on wake-board activities because of bank erosion. I spent 3 hours on the river on Friday 5th January. It is clear that changing river levels and flooding cause some erosion but such events are followed soon after by large waves caused by wakeboats, the bank will be disturbed before it has a chance to dry out and stabilise. I also attended a public meeting at Bundalong on Monday 15th at which this subject was discussed.

On a more sombre note, I must note the death of Mr Arch McLeish who was a past Mayor of Albury and Chair of Region 1. A letter of condolence was sent to his family on behalf of the MDA.

I thank you all for the support and engagement you have shared with the MDA in the year just gone, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your communities in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Cr David Thurley



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Board Meeting No. 372

Finance Report – December 2017

Objective

To inform the Board of the financial affairs of the Association.

Financial Report

The Financial Report for month ended 31 December 2017 comprises the following:

1. Profit & Loss for month ended 31 December 2017 with year to date and budget comparison
2. Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017 with last year comparison
3. Aged receivables as at 31 December 2017

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I am pleased to report that our figures are reflecting continuing realization of efficiencies in terms of time and administrative costs as a result of moving accounting systems from MYOB to Xero. We are also seeing more concise and reliable reporting, with staff also very happy with the system.

The key benchmarks around the December 2017 figures are as follows:

	Actual \$	Last Year \$	Budget \$
Net Profit (accruals) to 31 December 2017	147,170	138,877	132,271
Net Profit (cash) to 31 December 2017	80,061	114,931	92,275
Closing Receivables at 31 December 2017	83,648	22,133	53,500
Closing Bank Balances at 31 December 2017	76,686	124,619	91,537

In summary by 31 December 2017 the MDA had received a total of \$219,355 in 2017-18 membership income, comprising \$58,116 received in advance during June 2017, and a further \$161,239 in current year remittances.

Similarly, a total of \$64,004 has been received in 2018 Conference Income including \$6,320 of advanced sponsorship payments, with the balance received in the current financial year. This is considerably higher compared to the budget expectation of \$45,000, and total conference revenue of \$37,954 the previous year.

Expenses are generally as expected and will be covered by the income received.

Prepared by Peter George

Approved by Emma Bradbury

Since the Annual Conference considerable focus has been on collection of outstanding memberships and conversion Receivables outstanding to Cash at Bank. Initially collection of invoices outstanding has been slower than previous years, however Emma and Angus have done a great job to reduce outstanding receivables (see report attached).

The suggested sale of water (\$25,000) as per the Budget in October 2017 has again been considered, however as the price of water continues to rise and current cash reserves are sufficient it is suggested that the water sale again be deferred for 1 month and then reconsidered by the board.

The overview is that to 31 December 2017 we have exceeded our budgeted profit target. The increase in year to date profit compared to budget is largely attributed to an additional \$13,375 in Membership invoices and \$22,956 in additional payments for the National Conference and Sponsorships.

I am very happy to take comment of the reports presented, additional reports required or requests for additional information within comments that accompany the financial reports.

The position of the MDA continues to be strong.

Peter George
Treasurer

Profit & Loss

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED For the month ended 31 December 2017

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income								
Conference Income	-	-	-	0.0%	67,819	45,000	22,819▲	50.7%▲
Donation/Gift Income	10	-	10▲	0.0%	55	-	55▲	0.0%
Income - Memberships	-	3,500	(3,500)▼	-100.0%▼	233,975	237,500	(3,525)▼	-1.5%▼
Income - Projects	-	-	-	0.0%	1,186	-	1,186▲	0.0%
Total Income	10	3,500	(3,490)	-99.7%	303,035	282,500	20,535	7.3%
Gross Profit	10	3,500	(3,490)	-100.0%	303,035	282,500	20,535	7.0%
Less Operating Expenses								
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	-	80	(80)▼	-100.0%▼	282	480	(198)▼	-41.3%▼
Advertising & Marketing	-	100	(100)▼	-100.0%▼	6,224	4,710	1,514▲	32.1%▲
Bank Fees	67	40	27▲	67.4%▲	634	240	394▲	164.0%▲
Business Insurance	408	-	408▲	0.0%	408	980	(572)▼	-58.3%▼
Computer Expenses	1,218	100	1,118▲	1118.1%▲	1,613	2,000	(387)▼	-19.3%▼
Conference Expenses	2,012	-	2,012▲	0.0%	25,906	25,000	906▲	3.6%▲
Depreciation - Computer	-	-	-	0.0%	164	-	164▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	-	-	-	0.0%	94	-	94▲	0.0%
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	-	465	(465)▼	-100.0%▼	1,824	2,790	(966)▼	-34.6%▼
Depreciation - Office Equipment	-	10	(10)▼	-100.0%▼	104	60	44▲	73.1%▲
Depreciation - Software	-	-	-	0.0%	562	-	562▲	0.0%
Entertainment (Meal)	11	-	11▲	0.0%	11	-	11▲	0.0%

Profit & Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Fuel Expenses	359	320	39▲	12.1%▲	1,617	1,920	(303)▼	-15.8%▼
General Repairs & Maintenance	109	-	109▲	0.0%	109	-	109▲	0.0%
Licences and Subscriptions	191	-	191▲	0.0%	1,157	200	957▲	478.6%▲
Meeting Expense	-	200	(200)▼	-100.0%▼	121	1,200	(1,079)▼	-89.9%▼
Motor Vehicle Insurance	865	-	865▲	0.0%	865	840	25▲	3.0%▲
Motor Vehicle Interest Expense	39	-	39▲	0.0%	39	-	39▲	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	-	-	-	0.0%	382	890	(508)▼	-57.1%▼
Motor Vehicle Registration	-	-	-	0.0%	686	680	6▲	0.9%▲
Parking/Tolls Expenses	73	-	73▲	0.0%	73	-	73▲	0.0%
Postage	-	120	(120)▼	-100.0%▼	412	720	(308)▼	-42.8%▼
Premises Rent - Echuca	500	-	500▲	0.0%	8,000	7,500	500▲	6.7%▲
Printing	136	140	(5)▼	-3.2%▼	879	840	39▲	4.6%▲
Pro Indemnity Insurance	811	-	811▲	0.0%	811	860	(49)▼	-5.7%▼
Professional Fees	-	-	-	0.0%	4,300	-	4,300▲	0.0%
Public Liability Insurance	654	-	654▲	0.0%	654	700	(46)▼	-6.6%▼
Staff Amenities	47	50	(3)▼	-5.5%▼	47	100	(53)▼	-52.7%▼
Staff Training Expenses	1,405	2,000	(595)▼	-29.8%▼	1,541	2,000	(459)▼	-23.0%▼
Stationery	80	-	80▲	0.0%	503	460	43▲	9.3%▲
Superannuation	1,233	1,424	(191)▼	-13.4%▼	7,474	7,249	225▲	3.1%▲
Telephone Expenses	412	400	12▲	2.9%▲	1,879	2,400	(521)▼	-21.7%▼
Travel & Accom. Expenses	1,041	800	241▲	30.1%▲	3,660	4,800	(1,140)▼	-23.8%▼
Wages & Salaries Expenses	13,603	14,986	(1,383)▼	-9.2%▼	80,503	76,290	4,213▲	5.5%▲
Water Expenses	-	20	(20)▼	-100.0%▼	526	820	(294)▼	-35.8%▼
Work Cover Premiums	536	-	536▲	0.0%	1,800	3,500	(1,700)▼	-48.6%▼
Total Operating Expenses	25,808	21,255	4,553	21.4%	155,865	150,229	5,636	3.8%

Profit & Loss

	Actual	Budget	Var AUD	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Net Profit	(25,798)	(17,755)	(8,043)	-45.0%	147,170	132,271	14,899	11.0%

Balance Sheet

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED As at 31 December 2017

31 Dec 2017

31 Dec 2016

Assets

	31 Dec 2017	31 Dec 2016
Bank		
ANZ Business Extra ...6893	76,686	124,620
ANZ Commercial Credit Card 359	(822)	-
ANZ MDF Gift #9052	1,571	4,561
ANZ MDF Ops #7503	4	4
Total Bank	77,439	129,184
Current Assets		
LGFA 01 Account	42,282	41,968
LGFA 01 Environmental Fund	2,497	2,479
Petty Cash/Cash On Hand	-	200
Trade Debtors	83,648	22,134
Total Current Assets	128,427	66,780
Fixed Assets		
Art Work at Valuation	5,000	5,000
Computers Accumulated Depreciation	(164)	-
Low Value Pool	1,761	1,761
Low Value Pool Accumulated Depreciation	(1,108)	(831)
Motor Vehicles	34,718	34,718
Motor Vehicles Accumulated Depreciation	(19,443)	(15,258)
Office Equipment	4,798	4,798
Office Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	(2,152)	(1,410)
Software At Cost	16,550	-
Software at Cost Accumulated Depreciation	(562)	-
Total Fixed Assets	39,399	28,778
Non-current Assets		
High Security Water Shares MDA	115,100	112,600
High Security Water Shares MDF	54,000	54,000
Sundry Debtor	167	-
Total Non-current Assets	169,267	166,600
Total Assets	414,532	391,343

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
ANZ MDA Visa Credit Card	-	1,834
GST	1,435	(1,011)
Sponsorship received in advance	(1,320)	-
Sundry Creditors	-	31,200
Trade Creditors	7,949	1,732
Total Current Liabilities	8,064	33,754
Non-Current Liabilities		

Balance Sheet

	31 Dec 2017	31 Dec 2016
Annual Leave Benefit	10,911	4,198
Debenture Loan	1,500	3,500
Hire Purchase Liability	3,998	7,997
Hire Purchase Unexpired Charges	(256)	(764)
Month-end accruals	4,800	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	12,222	5,282
Superannuation payable	7,474	2,804
Total Non-Current Liabilities	40,649	23,016
Total Liabilities	48,714	56,770
Net Assets	365,819	334,573
Equity		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	25,050	22,550
Current Year Earnings	147,170	138,878
Retained Earnings	193,599	173,145
Total Equity	365,819	334,573

Aged Receivables

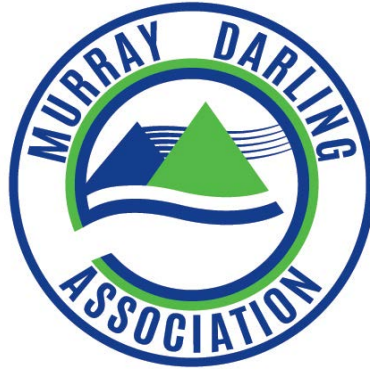
MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED December 2017

	Current	November	October	September	Older	Total
Receivables						
Adelaide City Council	-	-	-	-	2,524	2,524
Adrian Wells #22819450	-	-	-	-	83	83
Broken Hill City Council	-	-	-	-	6,191	6,191
Federation Council #22819696	-	-	-	-	3,838	3,838
Gannawarra Shire Council #22819476	-	-	-	-	3,582	3,582
Gen Campbell	-	-	-	-	83	83
Griffith City Council #22819794	-	-	-	-	6,798	6,798
Hillman, Dr Terry - Life Member	-	594	-	-	-	594
Jack Bennett	-	-	-	-	83	83
Ken Pattison	-	-	-	-	83	83
Legatus Group	-	-	-	-	28,874	28,874
Mannum Visitor Information Centre	-	-	-	-	847	847
Mark & Robyn Gooden	-	-	-	-	83	83
Mid Murray Council	-	2,282	-	-	2,542	4,824
Mid Western Regional Council	-	-	-	-	6,798	6,798
Moree Plains Shire Council	-	-	-	-	4,506	4,506
Mr Adrian Pederick MP JP	-	-	-	-	83	83
Smith, Peter	-	-	-	-	83	83
Snowy Valleys Council #22819679	-	-	-	-	4,635	4,635
Swan Hill Rural City Council	-	-	-	-	6,798	6,798
Walgett Shire Council	-	-	-	-	2,260	2,260
Total Receivables	-	2,876	-	-	80,772	83,648
	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	96.6%	

Aged Receivables

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED January 2018

	Current	December	November	October	Older	Total
Receivables						
Adelaide City Council	-	-	-	-	2,524	2,524
Adelaide Plains Council	2,215	-	-	-	-	2,215
Adrian Wells #22819450	-	-	-	-	83	83
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	2,323	-	-	-	-	2,323
District Council of Mount Remarkable	763	-	-	-	-	763
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	232	-	-	-	-	232
District Council of Peterborough	460	-	-	-	-	460
District Council of the Copper Coast	3,438	-	-	-	-	3,438
Goondiwindi Regional Council	3,321	-	-	-	-	3,321
Jack Bennett	-	-	-	-	83	83
Ken Pattison	-	-	-	-	83	83
Mark & Robyn Gooden	-	-	-	-	83	83
Mr Adrian Pederick MP JP	-	-	-	-	83	83
Port Pirie Regional Council	4,603	-	-	-	-	4,603
Smith, Peter	-	-	-	-	83	83
Total Receivables	17,355	-	-	-	3,019	20,375
	85.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	



Chief Executive Officer's Board Report January 2018

Prepared by: Emma Bradbury

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1. Introduction

Since the CEO last reported to the board there has been plenty happening. It was a busy finish to 2017 with the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting in Albury, a presentation to Gunnedah Shire Council (many thanks to treasurer Pete George for the door to door flight that made this possible!!) and the finalisation of a funding submission to the Building Better Regions Fund.

It's been a productive and positive start to 2018. Our members have already begun engaging on numerous important Basin matters for the year ahead, and we've fielded several membership enquiries from interested councils, several of which have renewed lapse membership.

That all makes for an exciting start to the year and demonstrates that we're on the right path.

2. Diary/Engagements

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	LOCATION
12/12/17	Region 9 AGM and tour of prospective conference venues	Leeton
18/12/17	Meeting with the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council	Albury
20/12/17	Presentation to Gunnedah Shire Council	Gunnedah
21/12/17	MDA Christmas celebration	Echuca
22/12/17	Phone call with Ben Fee etc to discuss PIRSA partnership project	Phone
11/12/17	Membes training session	Echuca
15/15/17	Murray River Erosion Management Plan Public Information Session	Bundalong
18/01/17	Conference 2018 Planning Committee meeting	Echuca
19/01/17	Meeting with long-standing MDA supporters John and Annie McArthur at the Australian Open	Melbourne
24/01/17	Meeting with Campaspe Shire Council CEO Jason Russell	Echuca

3. Engagements

3.1. Ministerial Council, Albury

The CEO travelled to Albury on December 18 to attend pre-Ministerial Council events. Cr Thurley was unable to attend, so Cr Jamie Chaffey and General Manager Eric Groth from Gunnedah Shire Council attended in his place, representing Region 11.

The CEO was asked to prepare a summary of key issues (**attached**) to be raised to the Ministerial Council. Broadly, it proposes solutions to some of the issues facing the Basin Plan, including:

- The timely delivery of the Water Resources Plans
- The delivery of the 450 gigalitres of upwater
- The impacts of variations in water allocations
- Water literacy

3.2. Presentation to Gunnedah Shire Council

The CEO travelled to Gunnedah on December 20 to present to Gunnedah Shire Council. The purpose of this presentation was to highlight the achievements and aims of the MDA and invite GSC to consider Chairing Region 11.

GSC have demonstrated a high level of engagement with the MDA and leadership on Basin issues over a number of years, addressing the National Conference in 2015; collaboration with the MDA on a joint submission to the Northern Basin Review, representation of their region and the MDA at the Dec 2017 Ministerial Council stakeholder engagement events, and participation in the 2018 Strategic Planning workshop.

GSC Councillors are expected to vote in February on whether council will Chair the region.

3.3. Presentation to the Border Regional Organisation of Councils

The CEO will travel to St George, Balonne Shire Council on February 9 to address a meeting of the Border Regional Organization of Councils with Mayor Richard March, Chair of Region 12.

The BROOC has eight member councils, including Balonne, Goondiwindi, Gwydir, Inverell, Moree Plains, Southern Downs, Tenterfield and Walgett. Gwydir is the current chairing council.

Gwydir Executive Assistant Robyn Phillips has arranged with the MDA for the BROOC to cover the CEO's travel costs, including flights, accommodation, and car hire, amounting to almost \$800.00.

3.4. Aquatic subcommittee

As detailed at Board Meeting 370, the CEO has been appointed to the NSW Environmental Trust's Aquatic Subcommittee. The CEO is attending the first meeting of the subcommittee in Sydney on February 26. Travel expenses are covered by the NSW Government.

The subcommittee oversees the implementation of the River Connections project, which will deliver a grants program to trial new approaches to integrated river management aimed at improving health outcomes for rivers in NSW.

The subcommittee's role includes reviewing business plans, progress reports and final reports and assessing expressions of interest and grant applications for the Trust's consideration.

The subcommittee is expected to meet four times within its first year and annually thereafter. This appointment is for the duration of the project.

3.5. Natural Resources Access Regulator

While in Sydney, the CEO will meet with the New South Wales Natural Resources Access Regulator Chair Craig Knowles

This will be an opportunity to discuss the status of the regulator's establishment, how it will function and what role local government can play.

The creation of a Natural Resources Access Regulator was recommended by Ken Matthews in his report into water management and compliance in NSW.

The [Natural Resources Access Regulator Bill](#) was passed into law on 30 November 2017.

It is worth noting that the chair of the NRAR is Craig Knowles who, while in the position of Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority in 2014 urged the board to pursue constitutional and operational reforms and said "If the MDA didn't already exist, we'd have to invent it."

This will

4. Administration

4.1. Finance and aged receivables report

In early January the CEO and Senior Officer prepared a report on aged receivables. Aged receivables totaled \$56,094.14 (excluding Legatus member councils). All outstanding account holders were contacted and payment was requested, with invoices re-issued where necessary.

The majority of accounts have since been paid (see interim January Aged Receivables report included in Finance Reports). Payment has also been approved but not yet received from Adelaide City Council.

Moree Plains Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council and Gannawarra Shire Council were among the aged receivables, but they have indicated they will not be renewing their membership at this stage. A full report on account credits will be resented with the January finance reports.

The only other aged receivables are six individual memberships, of which several may be doubtful.

4.1.1. Legatus member councils

As previously reported to the Board, on 01/07/17 an invoice for \$28,874.23 was issued to the Legatus Group (Region 8 councils) for group membership of the MDA for 2017/18, as agreed between the MDA/Legatus earlier that year.

Since that agreement, two Legatus councils expressed their reservations about a group membership, effectively stalling the payment of the group invoice.

On January 10 the CEO credited Legatus and issued individual membership invoices to Region 8 councils for the 2017/18 year. Several councils have since paid.

The offer of a group membership through Legatus remains available and may be taken up in the 2018/19 year, with this matter to be considered at the next Legatus meeting on February 22.

The CEO is continuing to work with the Chair of Region 8, Legatus and councils in that area to strengthen memberships. Presentations to several councils has been arranged and a road trip to engage SA councils is scheduled in April.

4.2. Update on lease arrangements

The Murray Darling Association has been co-located with Parks Victoria at 463-465 High Street since 2015. It has been a mutually beneficial relationship, with Parks Victoria always willing to support the MDA in any way possible.

Now PV is looking to consolidate its Echuca office and depot into one new location, which means they will depart our current location, expected to happen some time in 2018.

A prospective tenant has already inspected the building and has expressed interest in leasing the entire space, meaning the MDA will need to relocate.

The CEO is currently in discussions with a prospective landlord on similar terms, and equally synergistic alignment of purpose and values.

4.3 Membes

The CEO and Senior Officer have commenced work on the implementation of Membes – the Murray Darling Association’s new membership management software.

Currently the designers are tweaking the software to suit the very specific regional structure and hierarchy of the MDA.

Once this is done, membership data will be uploaded based on membership category. For member councils, profiles will include details of their Mayor, CEO/GM, councillor delegates and relevant council officers.

Membes will serve as a live database of our members and delegates. It will also provide a means of communicating in a very targeted fashion with our members.

5. Projects

5.1. Building Better Regions Fund submission

In November the CEO reported to the Board on a partnership between the MDA and CSIRO to develop a project that could track the impacts of water allocation variations and that could be eligible for funding under the Building Better Regions Fund.

A funding submission to the Federal Government’s Building Better Regions Fund was lodged on 19/12/2017. The total cost of the proposed project is \$625,000, with CSIRO to contribute \$125,000 and \$500,000 sought from the BBRF. Successful applicants are expected to be announced in mid-2018.

The project seeks to develop a ground-up evaluation framework and methodology against which the community impacts of the Basin Plan can be assessed, and from which external factors can be distinguished, enabling communities and all levels of government to identify opportunities to strengthen our regions, and ensure greatest social and economic benefits via the implementation of the Plan.

6. National Conference

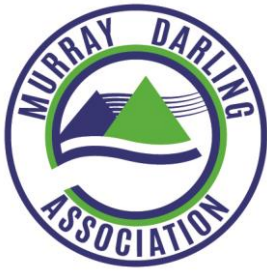
6.1 74th National Conference and AGM, August 29-31 2018

Planning is well underway for the 2018 National Conference, being hosted by Leeton Shire Council in Region 9. A planning committee was established immediately after the 2017 conference and first met on November 1. Three subsequent meetings have been held and will continue monthly, then fortnightly and weekly as the conference approaches.

The CEO and Senior Officer travelled to Leeton on December 12 to attend the Region 9 AGM and tour prospective conference venues. A list of key planning dates has been established, with the event website expected to be launched in February.

Stops on the partners and study tours are currently being finalised and lists of prospective sponsors and presenters are being prepared.

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer



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Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council December 2017 – Albury

Knowing the issues, let's look at solutions...

Rather than raise any specific or known issues or re-prosecute existing cases, the MDA would like to take this opportunity to propose several key initiatives we believe can deliver real solutions to some of the challenges ahead in 2018.

Water Resource Plans – The 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation conducted by the MDBA has identified that while the Basin Plan is working, the need for the timely accreditation of the remaining 35 water resource plans is essential to its continued implantation.

It will be important to ensure that the water resource plans align Basin-wide and state-based water resource management *in a way that maximizes triple bottom line outcomes*. The MDA is keenly aware of the imperatives at stake and would like to work with the states to ensure that local knowledge and input informs the development of those Plans, and work with the MDBA to ensure that the accreditation process recognizes social and economic considerations. We believe this will improve outcomes and build community confidence in the water resource plans.

Irrigation Industry Improvement Programs - Local government recognizes the need for innovative approaches to meeting Basin Plan targets. The MDA acknowledges the regional economic benefits to irrigators and the wider communities delivered under the Irrigation Industry Improvement Program (3IP) component of the SARMS project, currently on track to deliver 40GL of industry-driven water efficiencies, in an already lean system while supporting communities to build resilience and stimulate economic development.

We propose that Basin governments partner with local government through the MDA to build a program that builds on what we already know and applies the successful elements of that program at a Basin scale. While we remain opposed to outright or un-supported buy-backs, we believe this proposal can achieve the recovery of the 450GL required under the Plan; can fairly and equitably pass the neutrality test; can stimulate regional economic development, and thereby re-define the dialogue around this issue.

Water allocation impacts evaluation and response framework – For communities to adapt effectively to the variations in water allocations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan, the impacts of the implementation must be properly assessed and understood.

The MDA is currently partnering with the CSIRO in a bid for funding for a project to develop a water allocations impacts evaluation and response framework. This project will apply a methodology against which the community impacts of the Basin Plan can be assessed, and from which external factors can be

distinguished. It will enable communities and all levels of government to identify opportunities to strengthen our regions, and ensure greatest social and economic benefits are captured throughout the implementation of the Plan and beyond. Funding is currently being sought under the Building Better Regions Fund. The MDA would like to seek the support of the Basin Ministers in this project.

Enhancing water literacy in local government and communities across the Basin. The communities of the Murray-Darling Basin reflect an incredibly diverse range of hydrological conditions, social structures, and economic circumstances. The MDA has identified that differences in terminology and understanding across and between states and communities of issues within the water sector creates unnecessary barriers to more effective and collaborative outcomes. With a Basin-scale perspective, the MDA identifies far more common ground on challenging issues than is often recognized at the state and regional level.

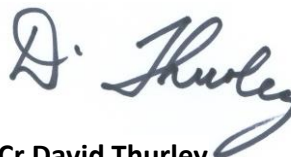
The MDA is seeking support for a project to develop a range of resources and workshops that will assist local government and communities to enhance their 'water literacy', to develop a common language that will enhance a shared understanding of priorities, objectives and pathways.

General solution - In 2014, Craig Knowles – then Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority said that local government and communities are essential to implementing the Basin Plan, and that if the MDA didn't exist, it would have to be invented. The MDA does exist and we invite our state and federal government partners, and agencies across the Basin to use this organization and its members, the councils and communities of the Basin, to achieve our common goal of providing stability and economic opportunity to our Basin communities while delivering the Basin Plan on time and in full.

Murray Darling Association representatives



**Emma Bradbury,
Chief Executive Officer,
Murray Darling Association**



**Cr David Thurley
National President
Murray Darling Association**

Cr Thurley regrets he is an apology for this event and will be represented by Region 11, Gunnedah Shire Council.

**Cr Jamie Chaffey,
Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council
A/Chair – MDA Region 11**

**Eric Groth
General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council
MDA Region 11 – A/Secretariat**



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Adelaide Water Supply – an Overview

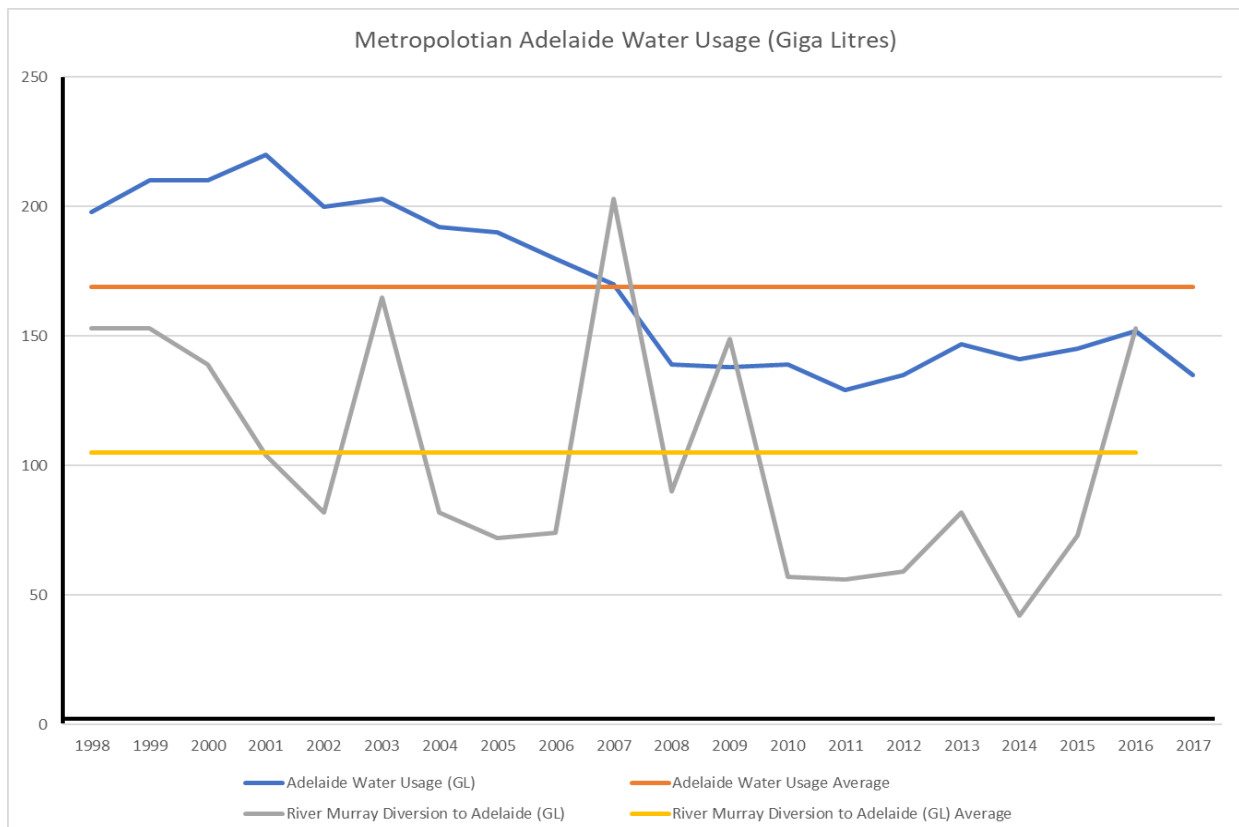
Availability of water is a major determinant of the evolution and location of all towns and cities around the world. Adelaide was established as a new free settler colony in 1836 and Colonel Light chose the site largely because of the availability of water – the Torrens and other small rivers emanating from the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The Mount Lofty Ranges catchment still provides a significant amount of Adelaide’s water supply through the 10 reservoirs linked to the greater Adelaide system. These reservoirs have a combined capacity of 100 GL. Water from the River Murray began being supplied to Adelaide in 1955 with a pipeline from Mannum to the northern part of Adelaide. A further pipeline from Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga in the South was completed in 1973.

The balance of supply between the Mt Lofty Ranges catchments and the River Murray depends on the amount of rainfall in the Mt Lofty ranges and the rate of flow in the river. The amount used from each source can vary significantly – as can the total amount of water needed.

Graph 1 shows the amount of water used each year since 1998 and the amount of water diverted from the River Murray over the same period.

Graph 1



A number of facts can be seen from the above graph:

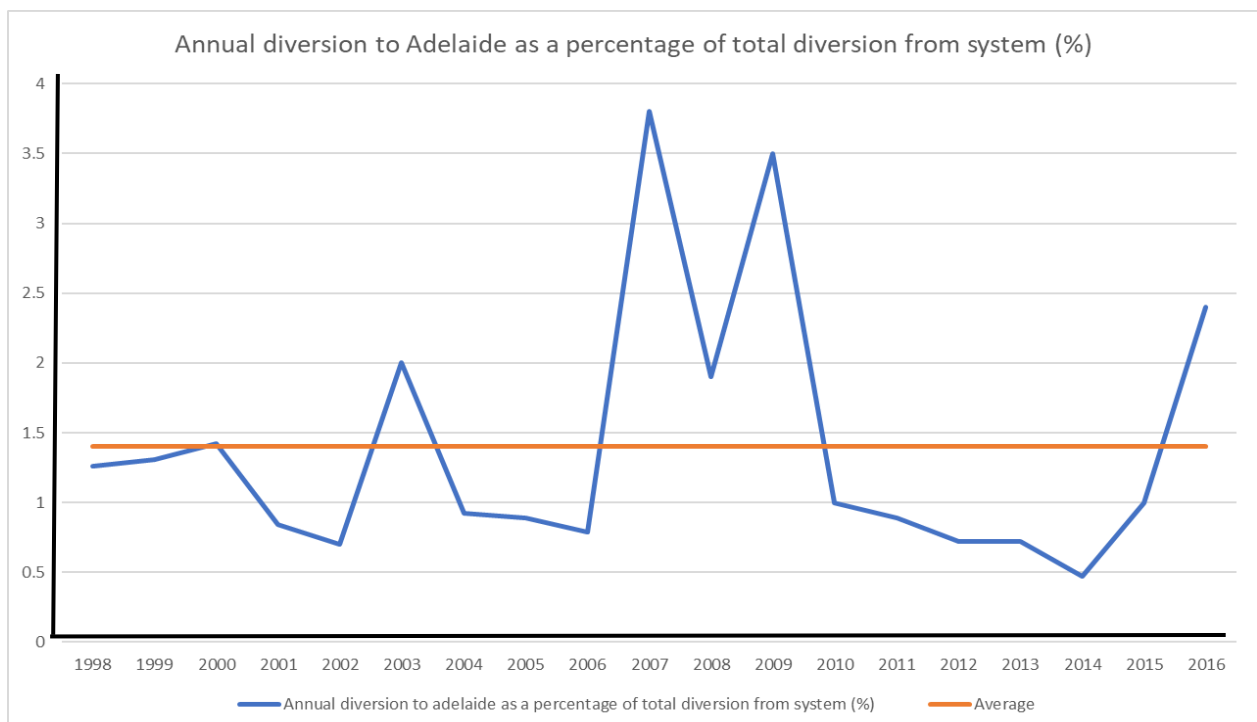
1. **Since the millennium drought in 2007 the amount of water consumed in Adelaide has dropped significantly (around 27 per cent) and remains at the lower levels.**

The drop in water supply can be attributed to a number of factors including:

- Public awareness of the need to conserve water
 - Water pricing policy
 - Investment by households in efficient watering systems (eg drippers)
 - Investments in rainwater storage tanks
 - More dense housing development with significantly less garden space
2. The amount of water diverted to Adelaide from the River Murray varies significantly from year to year. In years of lower rainfall, water from the river is used to build up holdings in the Mount Lofty Ranges reservoirs. (NB The 5 year rolling diversion cap for Adelaide is 650 GL – average 130 GL per annum. The diversion over any 5 year period is well below this level)
 3. **Over the 20 year period the average diversion from the River Murray is approximately 66 per cent or two-thirds of the water used in Adelaide.**

Graph 2 shows the amount of water diverted from the River Murray to Adelaide compared to the total amount diverted from the overall Murray Darling Basin.

Graph 2



Again it is clear that the amount diverted varies considerably each year. The impact of the drought years around 2007/8 is clear.

However, the average diversion over the 20 year period is less than 1.5 per cent of total diversion and in many years is well below 1 per cent. If the impact of the millennium drought is removed, the average is considerably less than 1 per cent.

The key issue for Adelaide is to ensure the availability and quality of water passing the pipeline extraction points (Mannum and Murray Bridge) is at the necessary level. This is very much dependent on the water levels in the Lower Lakes of the Murray. If the water level in the lakes drops, the acidity level increases. This acidity can leach back upstream and thus make the water unusable for the 1.2 million population of Adelaide.

Thus the health of the lower lakes is critical for the water supply of Adelaide.

Recycled sewerage and stormwater aquifer recharge schemes had been developed in Adelaide over many years, however the severe drought in 2006-7 resulted in a significant investment by the Commonwealth, State and local governments to increase these schemes as part of strategies to water-proof Adelaide— i.e. securing water supply.

Currently waste water schemes produce approximately 30 GL per annum. Since the recovery from waste water is around 30 per cent, this suggests that, of the approximately 145 GL provided through the water mains system, 100 GL (approximately 70 per cent) is used for drinking, washing and toilets, while 45 GL is used for watering of gardens etc.

Storm water recharge schemes have a combined capacity of 22 GL per annum. These systems are used extensively to water public parks, gardens, ovals, golf courses etc. Local government is also active in investing in water sensitive urban design for its own infrastructure and in encouraging its use in other suitable developments. Adelaide is a world leader in many of these technologies.

Also as a result of the 2006-7 drought, the State Government invested in a desalination plant in the south of Adelaide with a capacity of 100 GL per annum. Current policy is that full capacity of the plant will be used when the spot price of water from the River Murray is greater than the marginal cost of running the plant. It is currently kept running at around 10 per cent of capacity, generating 10 GL of water annually.

A brief summary of Adelaide's water supply is set out below:

- **Adelaide takes, on average, less than 1.5 per cent of the water off-take from the Murray Darling Basin**
- **On average, 66 per cent of Adelaide's water supply comes from the River Murray**
- **An additional 20 per cent comes from recycled waste water**
- **Storm water recharge schemes have the capacity to supply a further 8 per cent**
- **Since the drought of 2006-7, Adelaide's demand for water has dropped significantly and security of supply has been improved through investment in a desalination plant**

The key issue for Adelaide in terms of River Murray policy is the level and quality of water in the Lower Lakes.

**Cr David Shetliffe
Chair, Adelaide Metro Region (Region 7)
Murray Darling Association
January 2018**

**Sources:
SA Water Annual Reports
SA Government "Water for Good" report 2009
Murray-Darling Basin Authority data
Water Sensitive SA**