



Chief Executive Officer's Report

September 2019

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1. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
26/08/2019	Proposal run through – CSM	Via Zoom
27/08/2019	MDBA/MDA MoU Action plan meeting – Dan Croucher	Telephone
27/08/2019	Edwina Hayes – Regional Development Australia (RDA Murray)	Echuca
29/08/2019	Region 10 AGM and Ordinary Meeting	Dubbo
04/09/2019	LGNSW Water Management Conference	Albury
04/09/2019	Mary Hoodless – Karoo Consultancy	Albury
05/09/2019	Water Efficiency Program	Webinar
09/09/2019	MDA Strategic Advisory Group	Via Zoom
10/09/2019	2019 National Conference Committee Planning Meeting	Via Zoom
10/09/2019	Stuart George – Digital Creative Director	Via Zoom
11/09/2019	Department of Agriculture – Basin Community Leadership funding	Teleconference
11/09/2019	Billabong Ranch – Where the Long Paddock meets the Murray	Echuca
11/09/2019	Pete George – Finalisation of 2019 Financial Audit	Echuca
13/09/2019	EMFM Radio Interview	Echuca
17/09/2019	Presentation to District Council Mount Remarkable whole of council.	Via Zoom
19/09/2019	Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 discussions	Via Zoom
20/09/2019	Tara McCarthy – CEO – LGNSW	Via Zoom
20/09/2019	Region 8 Introduction meeting	Via Zoom
23/09/2019	Andrew Sherman – Draft Constitutional Change	Via Zoom
24/09/2019	2019 National Conference Committee Planning Meeting	Via Zoom
25/09/2019	MDA Region 6 Stakeholder symposium	Goolwa
25/09/2019	Dr Susan Close MP – State member for Port Adelaide	SA Parliament House
25/09/2019	Minister Speirs – Member for Black – Minister for Environment and Water & Chrissie Bloss	SA Parliament House
26/09/2019	Mr Tony Pasin MP - Federal Member for Barker	
26/09/2019	MDA Region 6 & 7 Inter Regional Meeting	Adelaide Hills

2 Engagements and events

2.1 Region 6 Stakeholder Symposium

The Region 6 Stakeholder Symposium was held on Wednesday the 25th of September in Goolwa South in South Australia. The event was attended by over 70 interested stakeholders from all across the region, who actively engaged and participated in the robust discussions, focusing on working together to secure a freshwater future for the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong.

The aims of this Stakeholder Symposium included:

- Developing a shared understanding of State and Federal agency priorities and projects regarding management of the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong.
- Finding out what State and Federal agencies would like to see communicated from groups in our region?

- Discussing how Councils and community might best work together to secure a healthy future for the Lower Murray, Lakes & Coorong,
- Identifying how MDA Region 6 can best represent Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong communities at State & Federal level in the management of Basin resources via the MDA Board.
- Welcome new member Victor Harbour

This was a brilliant event, and I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of Region 6 Chair Cr Melissa Rebbeck and her secretariat Shen Mann for putting this together. The event had a strong narrative flow, and it was a great example of the strength and capacity of our regions.

3 National Conference

The MDA executive has been busy preparing for the national conference, with less than 30 days until the conference kicks off in Toowoomba. The conference currently has 79 registrations, with registrations increasing each day.

There have been several recent additions to the program, including a Cubbie Station tour fully guided by Cubbie CEO Paul Brimblecombe following the national conference. The tour will only be available to MDA conference delegates, and will depart Toowoomba on Friday 25th October, returning Saturday 26th.

Goondiwindi Shire Council Mayor Graeme Shue and council will address the delegates at the lunch on Saturday in Goondiwindi. Carl has indicated council appreciates the opportunity – and is looking forward to welcoming delegates to the town.

Please note that the tour is in addition to the National Conference, so delegates will need to book and plan this additional stay. That said, this is a great opportunity to develop a firsthand understanding and experience of the national byword for changing water use that is - Cubbie Station.

4 Membership

20218	12/09/2019	Email	Hindmarsh shire Council	Declining Membership
20219	16/09/2019	Post	Campaspe Shire Council	Declining Membership
20220	16/09/2019	Post	District Council of Yankalilla	Declining Membership
20221	16/09/2019	Post	Orange City Council	Declining Membership
20218	12/09/2019	Email	Hindmarsh shire Council	Declining Membership
Outgoing	13/09/2019	Post	Western Downs Regional Council	Welcome letter
Outgoing	24/09/2019	Post	District Council of Mount Remarkable	Welcome letter
20222	23/09/2019	Verbal	City of Victor Harbour	Welcome letter

5 Projects

Basin Communities Leadership program

The contract for the Basin Communities Leadership project has been executed. Preparations are currently underway for commencement of the program. Interviews for the Leadership and Training Coordinator position role will take place on 8 October 2019.

6 Organisational development

We would like to warmly welcome Gemma Wilson to the team as a volunteer. Gemma started volunteering at the MDA earlier this month and brings to the team a wealth of knowledge and experience, and a great eye for detail with every task that she undertakes. While currently studying her Bachelor of Environment (Water Management), Gemma is also helping the team in the lead up to the national conference and starting to develop a set of water literacy resources for the board and our members.

7 Business updates:

The initial draft of the MDA 2020-2024 strategic plan is nearing completion and will be released for consultation prior to the AGM. Additionally, audit was finalised, and the annual report is being prepared with every indication of a bumper year of achievements and business development to report on.



Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer