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MEDIA RELEASE

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CONNECTIVITY: Connecting Councils & Catchments

MDA announces 2021 National Conference

Representatives from more than 100 councils across the Basin will meet at the junction of the Murray and the Darling rivers this May to discuss the importance of connectivity to the future health and prosperity of all Murray-Darling Basin communities.

Hosted by the Wentworth Shire Council, the Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference & AGM is an unmissable event attracting leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Themed *Connectivity: Connecting Councils and Catchments*, the conference will be held on 16 - 19 May 2021 in Wentworth, NSW, with conference presenters including experts from industry, government and community organisations, who are all playing a critical role in shaping the future of Australia.

“Following successive crises in 2020, we believe that local government and the communities of the Murray Darling Basin are well placed to adapt and forge ahead in 2021 - and beyond. Basin councils have, after all, spent years building connections across catchments and communities,” said MDA National President Cr David Thurley OAM.

“Connectivity of communities is essential to our people. In the same way, a healthy river system must have connectivity of flows. There is no future on a dry system,” said Cr Thurley.

This year’s conference will also include a unique tour of the Menindee Lakes, often referred to as the Kakadu of the south, which experienced devastating fish kills between December 2018 and January 2019. The Lakes are an important connected wetland system, and a must-see for all across the Basin.

The MDA’s 77th National Conference & AGM offers delegates the opportunity to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, inform future policy and engage with the innovators, scientists, educators and leaders of our time.

Join us in Wentworth, where the mighty rivers connect; where local, technical and political leaders will come together to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future of connected councils and catchments.

Registrations are now open. To register for the conference, please go to www.mda.asn.au

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Communications and Engagement Officer on (03) 5480 3805*