

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT





78th annual report of the Murray Darling Association Inc: 2021-22

Incorporated under the Association's Incorporation Act 1984 NSW
Registered number Y 40317-47

Copyright © Murray Darling Association Inc.

National Library of Australia ISSN
1443-7767

Murray Darling Association Incorporated's public fund, the Murray Darling Foundation is a Registered Environmental Organisation.

Further copies are available from the Murray Darling Association Albury Office
553 Kiewa Street,
Albury NSW 2640
(03) 5480 3805
t.phillips@mda.asn.au

ABN: 64 636 490 493

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
National president report	4
Chief executive officer report	5
Our organisation: board performance	6
Our organisation: meetings record	7
Our regions	
Region 1 report	8
Region 2 report	9
Region 4 report	10
Region 5 report	12
Region 6 report	13
Region 7 report	15
Region 9 report	17
Region 10A report	19
Region 11 report	20
Report on our performance	22
Meetings and engagements	23
Pillar 1 - Member services	24
Pillar 2 - Science and education	25
Pillar 3 - Leadership and engagement	26
Pillar 4 - Corporate development	27
Our partnerships	28
Our people	29
Financial Statements 2021-22	31
Honor roll	39

INTRODUCTION

Following the adversity of recent droughts, bushfires, COVID-19, and flooding, communities across the Basin are continuing to emerge stronger and more resilient than ever.

With a strong focus on ensuring a resilient economy, and infrastructure to support it, local government and the communities of the Murray-Darling Basin are well placed to adapt and forge ahead in 2022 and beyond!

To support our members and the wider Basin community to thrive in the face of adversity, the Murray Darling Association continues to work alongside members and stakeholders, science and education partners, communities, and governments, and first nations, collaborating on a daily basis to tackle the big issues of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The following report reflects a successful and active year, including the implementation of year two of the Murray Darling Association's Strategic Plan Vision 2025.



NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Every year brings new surprises and new challenges and 2021-2022 has been one of the most surprising and challenging in my time as National President.

This year we welcomed our new CEO Mark Lamb who, ably supported by Tim Phillips, took up the reins and quickly got to work.

We were able to deliver the remainder of the BCLP program to the satisfaction of the funding body.

We also did a body of work for the CSIRO around the issue of the circular economy. This is an important issue across all local governments throughout the Basin and the MDA's involvement demonstrates the potential value that membership of the association brings.

As usual the year brought many challenges including the ongoing one of membership and financial viability. A number of discussions have been had at Board level to develop strategies to bring more Councils on board. These discussions will continue because of the importance of membership to our financial standing and our ability to represent local government on matters other than water related issues.

The 77th conference held in Wentworth was a great success and the format was appreciated by all attendees. The study tour on the first day was particularly informative and this model has been used to organise the 78th conference in Albury.

It has been a "bumper" year for water with storages across the Basin at high level and forecasts of another La Nina and an Indian Ocean dipole will bring more rain over spring and summer.



However, there are still matters of serious concern to the Murray Darling Association: NSW has not had any of their water resource plans accredited by the MDBA and they are now 3 years overdue, as well as the matter of flood plain harvesting in NSW is still a contentious matter and of serious concern to communities in the southern basin.

The good rainfall in the past year has meant that there have been few adverse impacts but issues will arise again in a low rainfall year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Thurley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Thurley
National President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

In late 2021, it was my honour to be appointed by the MDA Board as the new CEO. Whilst there were many challenges ahead, it became apparent that I needed to hit the ground running. In addition to understanding the issues of the Murray Darling Basin, one of the first things that needed addressing was the relocation of the office from Echuca to Albury.

In line with the MDA's five-year Strategic Plan, we are seeking to build on the initiatives outlined in "Vision 2025". In relation to **Pillar 1 – Membership Services**, the MDA has been working hard to ensure that we communicate with all Basin communities, both members and non-members. We continue to engage with non-members to ensure that they are aware of the benefits of membership and the work that the MDA does, acknowledging the challenge of meeting with approximately 170 LGA's!

Basin communities have had the opportunity to engage with the MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program (BCLP). Personally delivering workshops across the Basin afforded me the incredible opportunity to meet with Basin communities and councils along the way. The participants at these workshops were all deeply committed to the future of their communities and to developing their leadership skills. The course is designed to provide local leaders in the Basin community with the skills to be part of the solution and able to achieve results through collaboration.

Our commitment to **Pillar 2 – Science and Education** continues to strengthen through strategic partnerships. In particular, we have been working closely with CSIRO – most notably on the Circular Economy. This project tasked us with engaging with LGAs and Local Governments across the Basin to understand their limitations, opportunities, and views of the Circular Economy. We look forward to further developing this and other relationships with our partners.

This also fits with a key component of **Pillar 3 – Leadership and Engagement** - ie opportunity and engagement. Following on from an incredible National Conference in Wentworth in 2021, which saw delegates and attendees come together from across the Basin, the MDA is looking forward to delivering our 2022 78th National Conference and AGM this year in Albury.



With a great list of speakers, sponsors, and contributors, we are confident it will be a success!

Whilst the conference is a highlight of the year, engagement throughout the Basin itself never stops, with Regional Chairs coordinating regular meetings, Inter-Regional meetings, and Regional AGM's. Of course, all this work leads to developing key Motions, upon which, the MDA can then act. This is where the MDA really makes a difference – improving the Basin!

In relation to **Pillar 4 – Corporate Development** commits to ensuring our organisation is financially sustainable. Improving the financials has been a real challenge this year, however, we have been working diligently to secure funding from different sources. Thus far, we have improved our position, although there is more work to be done. I would like to thank our National President, Cr David Thurley OAM, and the entire Board for their passion and leadership of the MDA. I would also like to thank our Communications and Engagement Officer, Tim Phillips, for his significant contribution. Most importantly, I want to express our appreciation to the members of the MDA for their ongoing commitment and passion for the MDA and Murray-Darling Basin!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark D. Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

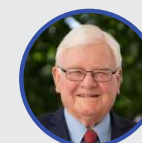
Mark D. Lamb
Chief Executive Officer

OUR ORGANISATION: BOARD PERFORMANCE

Board	Hosting Council	Region	Commenced	Finished
● Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	Chair Region 1 - President		
● Cr Bronwyn Thomas	Federation Council	Chair Region 2		17/11/2021
● Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council	Chair Region 2	17/11/2021	
● Cr Tim Elstone	Wentworth Shire Council	Chair Region 4		31/05/2022
● Cr Jason Modica	Mildura Rural City Council	Chair Region 4	31/05/2022	
● Cr Peter Raison	Mid Murray Council	Chair Region 5		15/05/2022
● Cr Andrew Kassebaum	Berri-Barmera Council	Chair Region 5	15/02/2022	
● Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Shire Council	Chair Region 6		
● Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham	Chair Region 7		
● Cr Paul Maytom	Leeton Shire Council	Chair Region 9		30/07/2021
● Cr Glen Andreazza	Griffith City Council	Chair Region 9	30/07/2021	
● Mayor Phyllis Miller	Forbes Shire Council	Chair Region 10		
● Mayor Craig Davies	Narramine	Chair Region 10A	21/12/2020	
● Cr John Campbell	Gunnedah Shire Council	Chair Region 11		31/1/2022
● Mayor Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council	Chair Region 11	31/1/2022	
● Mayor Samantha O'Toole	Balonne Shire Council	Chair Region 12		
● Pete George	M&S Group	<i>Treasurer</i>		
● Emma Bradbury	Murray Darling Association	<i>Chief Executive and Public Officer</i>		1/12/2021
● Mark Lamb	Murray Darling Association	<i>Chief Executive and Public Officer</i>	1/12/2021	



Cr David Thurley



Cr Geoff Dobson



Cr Jason Modica



Cr Andrew Kassebaum



Cr Melissa Rebbeck



Cr Andrew Tilley



Cr Glen Andreazza



Mayor Phyllis Miller



Mayor Craig Davies



Mayor Jamie Chaffey



Mayor Samantha O'Toole

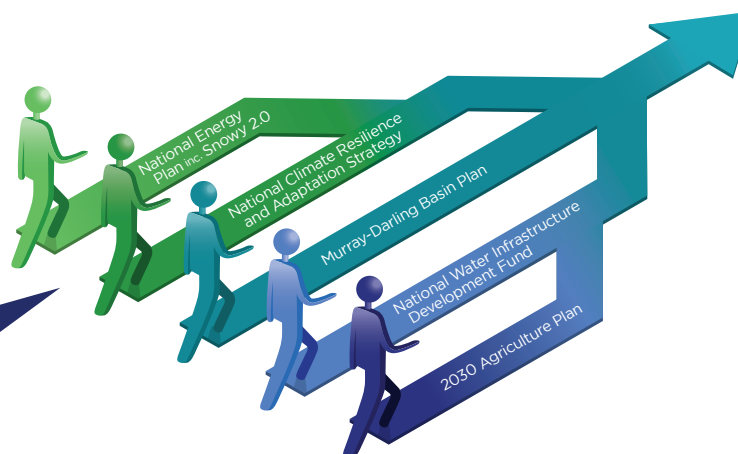


Pete George



Mark Lamb

These are some of the extraordinary plans on the ongoing agenda for 2022 and beyond!



Achieving these plans will require local leadership and collaboration.

APPRECIATING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF:



Cr Bronwyn Thomas
Region 2



Cr Tim Elstone
Region 4



Cr Peter Raison
Region 5



Cr Brian Lockyer
Region 8



Mayor Paul Maytom
Region 9



Cr John Campbell
Region 11



Emma Bradbury
CEO

OUR ORGANISATION: MEETINGS RECORD

BOARD MEETINGS

	Meeting 407 19 Apr 2021	Meeting 408 10 May 2021	77th AGM 19 May 2021	Meeting 409 28 June 2021	Meeting 410 16 August 2021	Meeting 411 18 Oct 2021	Meeting 412 26 Nov 2021	Meeting 413 31 Jan 2022	Meeting 414 18 March 2022	Meeting 415 16 May 2022	Meeting 416 18 July 2022	Meeting 417 5 Sept 2022
Cr David Thurley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cr Bronwyn Thomas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Cr Geoff Dobson							✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Cr Jane MacAllister	A	A	✓	A								
Cr Tim Elstone					✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓		
Cr Jason Modica											✓	X
Cr Peter Raison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cr Andrew Kassebaum										✓	✓	
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Cr Andrew Tilley	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	A	X
Cr Brian Lockyer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Mayor Paul Maytom	✓	A	✓	✓								
Cr Glen Andrezza					✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓
Mayor Phyllis Miller	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	✓	A	X
Mayor Craig Davies			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cr John Campbell	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Mayor Jamie Chaffey							✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Mayor Samantha O'Toole	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Pete George	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emma Bradbury	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark Lamb							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Attendance key: ✓ Attendance registered A Apology received P Attendance by Proxy X Non-attendance

REGION MEETINGS

REGION	04-21	05-21	06-21	07-21	08-21	09-21	10-21	11-21	12-21	01-22	02-22	03-22	04-22	05-22	06-22	07-22	08-22	09-22
1							Red					Red		Red			Red	
2						Blue		Blue			Blue					Blue		
3																		
4														Pink			Pink	
5						Purple			Purple	Purple			Purple					
6		Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
7						Yellow			Yellow			Yellow				Yellow		
8					Green													
9								Yellow				Yellow		Yellow		Yellow		
10																		
10A																		
11		Green						Green									Green	
12																		

Region meetings play an important role in initiating and facilitating discussion on regional and Basin issues, providing members, executive and guests to exchange information and identify priorities, and develop strategies and solutions.

REGION 1 REPORT

Region 1 comprises total of 13 councils, of which 4 are members of the MDA. Region 1 has 1 individual member and 1 life member. The committee is made up of:

Chair

Cr David Thurley Albury City Council

Committee members

Cr Bernard Gaffney Indigo Shire Council

Cr David Wortmann Towong Shire Council

Members

Albury City Council

Indigo Shire Council

Snowy Valleys Council

Towong Shire Council

Individual Members

Geoff Lucas

Other Eligible Councils

Alpine Shire Council

Baw Baw Shire Council

Benalla Rural City Council

East Gippsland Shire Council

Mansfield Shire Council

Snowy Monaro Regional Council

Rural City of Wangaratta

Wodonga City Council

Greater Hume Shire Council

Four region meetings were held during the year.

Date	Location
Friday 8 October 2021	Councillor Meeting Room, Albury City Council
Friday 4 March 2022	Councillor Meeting Room, Albury City Council
Friday 6 May 2022	Councillor Meeting Room, Albury City Council
Friday 5 August 2022	Councillor Meeting Room, Albury City Council

Membership remains a significant issue with only 5 of the eligible Councils being financial members, these being Albury, Indigo, Towong, Federation, and Snowy valleys.

It is intended to contact the non-member Councils as soon as possible after the annual conference to put a case for them to become members.

Four meetings were held during the 2021/22 financial year and they were:

8th October 2021, Megan McLeod from the Alliance for Water Stewardship Asia Pacific described the organisation and the process to become accredited under their guidelines.

4th March 2022, Frank Fisseler Project Director for the Water Efficiency Project of Goulburn Murray Water. The \$177.5 million modernisation project is funded by the Commonwealth Government and delivers an additional 15.9 gigalitres of water savings to the region without on farm works.

6th May 2022 Craig Hardge Assistant Director River Murray Water Quality MDBA spoke about water quality issues in Lake Hume and downstream.

5th August 2022 Kade Small Senior Environmental Officer with the Soil Conservation Service spoke about the work done to stabilise banks in various reaches of the Murray River.



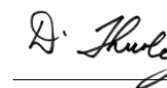
Picture courtesy: Albury City

Region 1 did not experience any of the flood events experienced by other parts of the state but significant rainfall over the summer and autumn have filled the 2 major storages to levels not seen before.

Later winter rain has made it necessary to begin releases from Lake Hume that are contributing to minor flooding downstream of Lake Hume which may continue for some time.

The lingering effects of bushfires also caused water quality issues such as low dissolved oxygen and algal growths.

The possibility of another La Nina event is of some concern given the high storages at present.



Cr David Thurley, OAM
Chair, Region 1



REGION 2 REPORT

Region 2 comprises a total of 14 councils, of which 5 are members of the MDA. Region 2 has three individual members. The committee is made up of:

Chair	
Cr Geoff Dobson	Greater Shepparton City Council
Cr Bronwyn Thomas (Outgoing)	Federation Council
Committee members	
Cr Peter Mansfield	Moira Shire Council

Members
Greater Shepparton City Council
Moira Shire Council
Federation Council
Individual Members
Murray Irrigation
Geoff Mackenzie
Ken Pattison

Other Eligible Councils
Berrigan Shire Council
Edward River Council
Campaspe Shire Council
City of Greater Bendigo
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Mitchell Shire Council
Murray Shire Council
Murrindindi Shire Council
Strathbogie Shire Council
Whittlesea City Council
Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Four region meetings were held during the year.

Date	Location
September 2021	Greater Shepparton City Council
November 2021	Greater Shepparton City Council
February 2022	Greater Shepparton City Council
July 2022	Greater Shepparton City Council



Picture courtesy: www.greatershepparton.com.au

Region 2 of the Murray Darling Association is centred around the Murray and Goulburn Valleys and includes municipalities from New South Wales and Victoria. Major centres include Shepparton, Echuca, Yarrawonga, Deniliquin, Berrigan and Corowa amongst others.

Cr Geoff Dobson from Greater Shepparton City Council was elected to chair the region and to date the region has conducted meetings, highlighting the work and inclusion of Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners within the Murray Darling Basin who have a real interest in the flow of waters through their traditional lands and in particular the protection of cultural sites and fish habitats.

We also learned of the work surrounding the \$2Billion irrigation upgrades from the team at Goulburn Murray Water the Victorian State Government.

This program has allowed increase in efficiency of water delivery within the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and the ability to increase water delivery to the environment. The program also includes on farm efficiencies and the reduction of spur channels and smaller delivery channels to farming properties.

We have also participated in work carried out by our CEO, Mark Lamb in relation to a circular economy study undertaken by the CSIRO.

Of particular interest was the discussions by the MDBA team in relation to The Barmah Choke and the various proposed remedies to reinstate the proper river flows of the Murray River below the Choke.

The remedies are complex and the Authority is considering a suite of actions which in part may require existing New South Wales and Victorian irrigation supply channels being utilized to assist in the deliveries.

There is no doubt that the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have been felt in our region, with a sense of disconnect between district quite evident and we need to work to re engage with many of our district municipalities.

We wish to acknowledge the administrative work undertaken by the Greater Shepparton City Council team, CEO Mark Lamb and his team throughout the year.



Cr Bronwyn Thomas
Outgoing Chair, Region 2.



Cr Geoff Dobson
Incoming Chair, Region 2.

REGION 4 REPORT

Region 4 comprises a total of 8 councils, of which 5 are members of the MDA. Region 4 has 1 life member, Mr Brian Grogan OAM. The committee is made up of:

Chair

Cr Jason Modica	Mildura Rural City Council
Cr Tim Elstone (Outgoing)	Mildura Rural City Council

Committee members

Mr Greg Hill	Central Darling Shire Council
Cr Marion Browne	Broken Hill City Council
Cr Stephen Heywood	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr Daniel Linklater	Wentworth Shire Council

Members

Balranald Shire Council
Broken Hill City Council
Central Darling Shire Council
Mildura Rural City Council
Wentworth Shire Council

Individual Members

Mr Brian Grogan OAM

Other Eligible Councils

Hindmarsh Shire Council
West Wimmera Shire Council
Yarriambiack Shire Council

Four region meetings were held during the year.

Date	Location
Tuesday 31 May 2022	AGM
Tuesday 31 May 2022	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 7 August 2022	
Wednesday 7 August 2022	

I would like to thank Wentworth Shire Council for taking the lead in MDA Region 4 over that last 5 years - firstly with Councillor Jane Macalister and then Mayor Tim Elstone.

The MDA AGM in Wentworth last year was a huge success. Exploring the complexity and ongoing changes in water and water management at the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers proved to be both educational and rewarding.

MDA Region 4 geographically, is the heart of the Murray Darling Basin. Our combined LGA's cover many thousands of kilometres and represent multiple Indigenous groups, businesses and government agencies. These key groups all seek to benefit their community interests collectively.

Last month, Mildura Rural City Council was recognised as the wealthiest Local Government Association in the nation - this was built from the strategic and efficient use of water. The sustainability of this change along with replenishing the Murray Darling Basins natural ecologies, are essential as climate change approaches and the natural cycle of flood and drought test our memories and data.

I have a deep regard and connection for the waters and lands of the Murray Darling Basin. My paternal grandfather purchased land for a market garden in Gol Gol NSW in the mid 1930's and, my maternal grandfather owned mail runs from Mildura to Menindee and Renmark in the 1950's.



Picture courtesy: www.mildura.vic.gov.au



Picture courtesy: www.mildura.vic.gov.au

REGION 4 REPORT (continued)

The majestic waters and natural gifts of these river regions soothed both men and offered wealth to their extended families. The narratives I grew up with have changed, however the memories of partially regulated free flowing rivers live on.

Our greatest opportunity as community leaders is to recognise the unique river systems we claimed and endeavour to replicate their natural pulses for ongoing sustainability. An exploration of the short-term financial boom delivered through the unbundling/privatisation of water for the benefit of irrigated horticulture and agriculture has expanded without a thorough assessment of the ecological cost value ratio (EVR). Are we now at capacity regarding future growth in irrigated horticulture and agriculture?

Many motions at the MDA AGM in Wentworth last year, explored and questioned the sustainability of certain practices in the Basin. Our biggest challenge at this juncture in history, is to take a helicopter view of the extreme changes that have occurred in the Murray Darling Basin since 1980. This rapid growth will eventually test the system we have put in place, unfortunately this was built on infinite growth in a variable finite system. Teamed with the looming power of a climate change fuelled mega drought suggests we have lots of work to do protecting our natural and unique water ways, whilst managing sustainable irrigated horticulture and agriculture.



Cr Tim Elstone
Outgoing Chair, Region 4.



Cr Jason Modica
Incoming Chair, Region 4.



Thirsty for water news?

Follow us for updates and community news from across the Murray-Darling Basin.



Australian Government



PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING AND RESPONSE GROUP

- ✓ We train your drone pilots
- ✓ We train your water safety and rescue crew
- ✓ We train your first aiders
- ✓ We train you to look after the mental health of your teams
- ✓ We are your public safety and emergency response trainers
- ✓ Let us help you, help your communities

**RTO 45395
ABN 34 610 953 332**

ALWAYS BE PREPARED

1300 396 570

info@pstrgroup.com

pstrgroup.com



REGION 5 REPORT

Region 5 comprises a total of 5 councils, of which 5 are members of the MDA.

Region 5 has 2 individual members. The committee is made up of:

Chair

Cr Andrew Kassebaum Berri-Barmera Council

Cr Peter Raison Mid-Murray Council (Outgoing)

Committee members

Cr Peter Raison Mid-Murray Council

Cr Peter Walker District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Cr Yvonne Smith District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Cr Margaret Howie Renmark-Paringa Council

Members

Berri-Barmera Council

Mid-Murray Council

Renmark-Paringa Council

District Council of Karoonda East Murray

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Ian and Bobby Mann (Individual)

Malcolm Wilksch (Individual)

Four region meetings were held during the year.

Date	Location
Monday 13 September 2021	Virtual
Monday 13 December 2021	Virtual
Tuesday 15 March 2022	Mid-Murray Council
Monday 13 June 2022	Renmark Paringa Council

Speakers: during the period included:

- Tim Smythe; CEO, Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association,
- Myles Fauser, Environmental Officer, Renmark Paringa council,
- Deana Mildren/Brent Williams MDBA,

Topics discussed during the year were:

- Water Stewardship and Local Government,
- Murrayland Riverland LGA Water Advocacy project,
- Regional Impact statement; What water means to our region,
- Planning and development within the basin, what is Local Government's role?
- River Murray system inflows and storages levels,
- Understanding floodplain harvesting and how it affects the ecology of the Barwon/Darling system,
- Current water resource position and climate outlook, and
- South Australia Carry-over policy amendments.

Deana Mildren/Brent Williams from the MDBA provide regular updates at our meetings, sharing information on Basin storage dam levels, flows across the Basin and the overall state of the MDB.

Remote meetings during the COVID pandemic has allowed Region 5 to connect and discuss issues in each members council district, across the SA regions and more broadly across the whole Basin. Knowledge is a powerful tool and can be used to dispel rumours and urban myths.

Region 5 and Region 6 have combined with the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) to form a Water Position Paper working group chaired by myself, coordinated by the CEO of MRLGA.

The working group intends to create an advocacy document which will be used by the region's participating councils when dealing with all things concerning water policy, water sensitive urban development, industry water resource needs and environmental demands for water.

An associated document, Regional Impact statement, "what water means to our region" provides the foundational data and evidence used to support the Advocacy Principles of the Water Position Paper.

Both papers aim to demonstrate the vital connection of water to people and place.

Region 5 still has 100 percent support from our councils and I feel the MDA is building a strong voice which can only help the Basin.



Cr Peter Raison
Outgoing Chair, Region 5



Cr Andrew Kassebaum
Incoming Chair, Region 5

REGION 6 REPORT



Region 6 comprises a total of 7 councils, of which 6 are members of the MDA including Alexandrina, Victor Harbour, Murray Bridge, Coorong, Tatiara and the Southern Mallee.

Region 6 has 6 individual members and 3 life members. The committee is made up of:

Chair	
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council
Committee members	
GM Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
CEO Bridget Mather	Coorong District Council
CEO Nigel Morris	Alexandrina Council

Members
Alexandrina Council
Tatiara District Council
City of Victor Harbor
Southern Mallee District Council
Rural City of Murray Bridge
Southern Mallee District Council
Individual Members
Adrian Pederick, MP JP
Colin Grundy
Warren Jacobs
Graham Camac (Life Member)
Phillip Moore (Life Member)
Barry Fetherstone (Life Member)

Other Eligible Councils
Kingston District Council

Fifteen region meetings were held during the year, including 6 virtual meetings to discuss our motions for the 78th National Conference and 4 meetings to prepare for the inter-regional meeting.

Date	Location
28 May 2021 (Executive Meeting 2)	Virtual
11 June 2021 (Ordinary Meeting 2)	Alexandrina Council
30 July 2021 (Executive Meeting 3)	Virtual
20 August 2021 (Ordinary Meeting 3)	Coorong District Council
8 October 2021 (Executive Meeting 4)	Virtual
13 October 2021 (Annual Symposium)	Bridgeport Hotel Murray Bridge
14 October 2021 (Barrage Tour/Farm Walk)	Circumnavigation of the Lower Lakes
12 November 2021 (Ordinary Meeting 4)	Murray Bridge
17 December 2021 (Executive Meeting 1)	Virtual
25 February 2022 (AGM/Ordinary Meeting 1)	Coorong District Council
5 May 2022 (Executive Meeting 2)	Virtual
20 May 2022 (Ordinary Meeting)	Virtual
3 July 2022 (Executive Meeting)	Virtual
12 August 2022 (Ordinary Meeting)	Virtual + Murray Bridge
6 September 2022 (Inter-Regional Forum)	Virtual + LGA House

Region 6 of the Murray Darling system, where the River meets the Ocean spans from the north of Murray Bridge into the Lower Lakes (Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert) then weaves through a series of channels to the Murray Mouth and is the gateway to the iconic Coorong National Park.

The fresh water/sea water interaction makes this region iconic, and its health is important to the ecology of the entire Basin.

We have had many meetings since our last conference with numerous topics covered and regular speakers.

In addition we had a symposium with in 2021 with a range of speakers as shown in table 3. The forum is important to update our wider community and provides an opportunity for two-way flow of information which also helps us be more aware of regional issues and opportunities. We also had other regional chairs share their regional issues and opportunities providing better connectivity across the Basin.

There have been many elements taking out time over the last 12 months on top of our normal meetings including:

- Our 2021 symposium (see table page over),
- A tour across the barrages (see photo page over),
- The water position paper for the MRLGA,
- Bidding and winning the National Conference for 2023,
- Formulating motions for 2022, and
- Our inter regional meeting for 2022 involving all state chairs and LGASA.

Guest Speakers at Ordinary Meetings during 2021/2022:

Michael Colagrossi Constraints Measures Team (Department of Environment and Water)	Topic: Constraints
Ken Scott Assistant Director, Groundwater Management - SDL Accounting Program (MDBA)	Topic: Ground Water
Deana Mildren Senior Engagement Officer, Communication Engagement and Strategic Policy Program Basin Strategy and Knowledge Portfolio (MDBA)	Topic: Quarterly Update x4
Michelle Campbell Regional Engagement Officer (CEWO)	Topic: E-watering Plan 2022
Richard Mintern Regional Engagement Officer (CEWO)	Topic: Water Outlooks and Updates x4
Greg Burns Field Officer Field Operations Office of Inspector-General of Water Compliance	Topic: Introductions and overview of the new department, role and objectives, and regular updates x4
Tim Smythe CEO MRLGA	Topic: Water Position Paper

Annual Symposium Session 1: Environment

Chair: Dr Kane Aldridge <i>(Goyder Institute)</i>	Speakers: Rebecca Turner <i>(DEW)</i> Tim Hartman <i>(NAC)</i> Rick Hartman <i>(NAC)</i> Chris Bice <i>(SARDI)</i> Cr Melissa Rebbeck <i>(Alexandrina Council)</i>	Theme: Recovery since Millennium Drought
--	---	---

Annual Symposium Session 2: Delivery Partners

Chair: Di Davidson AM <i>(Landscape SA)</i>	Speakers: Brent Williams <i>(MDBA)</i> Chrissie Bloss <i>(DEW)</i> Richard Mintern <i>(CEWO)</i> Darren Willis <i>(Landscape SA)</i>	Theme: E-Water Management
--	---	--

Annual Symposium Session 3: Agriculture

Chair: Michael Cutting <i>(Landscape SA)</i>	Speakers: Rosalie Auricht GM <i>(RIT)</i> Tracey Strugnell <i>(CDC)</i> Joanne Pfeiffer <i>(Murray Bridge)</i> Matt Howell <i>(Ruralco)</i>	Theme: Water efficiency/security
---	---	---

Annual Symposium Session 4: Local Government

Chair: CEO Tim Smythe <i>(MRLGA)</i>	Speakers: Cr David Thurely <i>(Region 1)</i> Cr Bronwyn Thomas <i>(Region 2)</i> Cr Melissa Rebbeck <i>(Region 6)</i> Cr Andrew Tilley <i>(Region 7)</i> Mayor Craig Davies <i>(Region 10)</i>	Theme: Key regional opportunities/risks
---	---	--

We are very much looking forward to presenting the national conference in 2023 to showcase our amazingly diverse region.

For a state that uses 8% of all conveyance water we are very proud of our water use efficient projects that are of international significance.

We are also looking forward to showcasing the Coorong national park its Ramsar wetlands, diverse ecology and its freshwater salt water interaction.

We also have issues within our region and our state has been working incredibly hard to resurrect the southern lagoon of the Coorong that has ongoing hyper saline issues since the millennium drought needing large infrastructure to support its wellbeing.

Our region has also aimed to put sugars beach on the map where you can see the Murray mouth and its rugged outback beach where constant dredging is required to keep the mouth open for essential flows out to sea for the health of the entire Basin.

Locally in 2022, \$8 million was announced for a local water research institute "titled meeting of the waters" thanks to the work of Rebekha Sharkie local MP. We need to ensure synergies between this institute, the one basin CRC, the centre of excellence, regional drought hubs, the State Govt Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin and the MDA.

This is my last MDA conference as a board chair as I am not re nominating as an elected member and we have elections in October. I have truly honoured and valued my time as Chair of Region 6 and Vice president of the southern basin.

During my time we have helped improve the connectivity of the MDA to local stakeholders while improving our connection across the basin via other regional chairs.

We have advocated through a serious drought in 2019 and have seen our region suffer and then recover through one of the best flow years in a while in 2022.

However, we still have a long way to go to achieve the 450 GL vital for the survival through the next drought and not enough through future droughts worsening under climate change. In the last 4 years global carbon emissions have risen by an alarming 12 ppm as we approach the point of no return at 450. This needs to be taken seriously with some urgent climate action NOW.

I would like to thank all of our members in region 6 for your input and hard work to support the vitality of the Coorong and Lower Lakes. I trust we are in a good position going forward with a legacy of strong membership and a newly appointed coordinator.

I feel our unity has grown due to our collective passion for a better environment and water flow and we have gained knowledge for the solutions and momentum for change.

I wish the MDA success through significant challenges.

Cr Melissa Rebbeck
Chair, Region 6



PHOTO: A tour across the barrages with sea on one side and river along the other. Photo Courtesy of Cr Melissa Rebbeck.

REGION 7 REPORT



Region 7 comprises a total of 21 councils, of which 4/5 are members of the MDA. Region 7 has 9 individual members. The committee is made up of:

Chair	
Cr Andrew Tilley	City of Mitcham
Committee members	
Cr John Kennedy	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Therese Britton-La Salle	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Robin Coleman	City of Tea Tree Gully
Mr Ray Najar	Individual Member
Mr Peter Shepherd	Individual Member

Members
City of Mitcham
City of Tea Tree Gully
Campbelltown City Council
Adelaide Hills Council
City of Playford
City of Port Adelaide Enfield
City of Burnside
City of Holdfast Bay
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
Jim Hullick OAM (Life Member)
Pauline Frost (Life Member)
Frank Verrall (Individual)
Rex Adams (Individual)

Other Eligible Councils
City of Adelaide
City of Charles Sturt
City of Unley
Town of Gawler
City of Marion
Mount Barker District Council
City of Prospect
Town of Walkerville
City of Onkaparinga

Four region meetings were held during the year.

Date	Location
19 August 2021	Campbelltown City Council
18 November 2021	Urrbrae Wetlands
24 March 2022	City of Tea Tree Gully
23 June 2022	Campbelltown City Council

Hello from Region 7. We represent a broad section of councillors from Urban and Peri Urban Adelaide Councils and a valued number of independent members.

Last year moving forward with Covid 19 we were able to meet face to face in our ordinary meetings and the Wentworth Annual Conference. Having missed our face to face connections in our Annual gathering it was great to be able to reconnect with our regional counterparts in a more personal manner.

Region 7 continues to benefit from the proximity of Tertiary Education facilities, Research bodies like the CSIRO and Private Organisations. We draw our representatives from these bodies.

These scientist's everyday life is centred around detailed study into all aspects of the Murray Darling Basin. Their knowledge and experience is a huge asset to our region. A portion of the speakers and topics are mentioned in this report.

The challenge for us is to communicate some of this information into the public realm to improve water awareness across the whole community via schools and community groups. We are delighted to report though that our Independent Membership has grown in the last year.

In particular our councils are proud of their application of Water sensitive Urban Design features. In keeping with the often repeated phrase that S.A. is the driest State in the driest continent we are conscious of the responsibility that drawing 160 GL of water from the Murray carries with it.

The discharge of stormwater straight into the sea is now recognised as unacceptable and where possible it is used to recharge aquifers and through tree nets and water gardens used to water street trees etc. Increasing suburban densification generates increasing stormwater issues that puts pressure on old systems and the ideas that created them.



PHOTO: Permeable Paving at City of Mitcham

REGION 7 REPORT (continued)

Adelaide councils with the help of the MDA is very conscious of the 160 GLs of Murray Water Drawn from the river.

It is intended to contact the non-member Councils as soon as possible after the annual conference to put a case for them to become members.

Four meetings were held during the 2021/22 financial year and they were:

8th October 2021, Megan McLeod from the Alliance for Water Stewardship Asia Pacific described the organisation and the process to become accredited under their guidelines.

4th March 2022, Frank Fisseler Project Director for the Water Efficiency Project of Goulburn Murray Water. The \$177.5 million modernisation project is funded by the Commonwealth Government and delivers an additional 15.9 gigalitres of water savings to the region without on farm works.

6th May 2022 Craig Hardge Assistant Director River Murray Water Quality MDBA spoke about water quality issues in Lake Hume and downstream.

5th August 2022 Kade Small Senior Environmental Officer with the Soil Conservation Service spoke about the work done to stabilise banks in various reaches of the Murray River.



Cr Andrew Tilley
Chair, Region 7.



PHOTO: Urrbrae Wetlands. Courtesy of Cr Andrew Tilley.



PHOTO: Treenet Inlets at new major intersection in City of Mitcham. Courtesy of Cr Andrew Tilley.

REGION 9 REPORT



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



Griffith City Council took over the Secretariat role to MDA Region 9 in the second half of 2021.

We would like to thank Leeton Shire Council for their assistance with the transition of the Secretariat role and for the long and valuable contribution to the Region 9 Group by the former Chair, Paul Maytom of Leeton.

Chair

Cr Glen Andrezza	Griffith City Council
Mayor Paul Maytom (Outgoing)	Leeton Shire Council

Committee members

Mayor Ruth McRae	Murrumbidgee Council
Cr Jenny Clarke	Narrandera Shire Council
Mayor Greg Conkey	Wagga Wagga City Council
GM Jackie Kruger	Leeton Shire Council
Bede Spannagle	Riverina Water County Council
GM Jackie Kruger	Leeton Shire Council

Members

Leeton Shire Council
Griffith Shire Council
Murrumbidge Shire Council
Wagga Wagga City Council
Hay Shire Council
Narrandera Shire Council
Carrathool Shire Council
Lockhart Shire Council
Riverina Water County Council (Individual)
J Bede Mecham (Life Member)
Michael McCormack MP (Individual)
Joe Burns (Individual)

Other Eligible Councils

Temora Shire Council
Coolamon Shire Council
Hilltops Shire Council
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
Junee Shire Council
Weddin Shire Council
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Yass Valley Council

Initially our meetings were via zoom, as part of the Covid-19 impact. Despite this the Region 9 Group came together to discuss the pertinent issues around water in our area.

Fortunately we have been able to meet in-person for the past two meetings if Members so chose to do, otherwise our zoom option continues for those that are not able to do so.

Four Region 9 meetings have been held over the past year:

Date	Location
Thursday 18 November 2021	Virtual
Thursday 17 March 2022	Virtual
Thursday 19 May 2022	Griffith Council Chambers
Thursday 28 July 2022	Griffith Council Chambers

We appreciate the time and information provided by invited presenters/guest speakers:

- Brian Graham, Manager Water Allocations DPIE Water (18/11/21 and 19/5/22)
- Priyantha Jayakody, Senior Hydrologist, Policy, Planning & Science Division, WaterGroup, DPIE (18/11/21 and 19/5/22)
- Stephanie Schulte, Manager Regional Water Strategies, DPIE (19/5/22)
- David Farley, Chair/Executive Director Agribusiness Sector (17/3/22)
- Matt Woodward, Senior Engagement Officer, MDBA (28/7/22)

Presentations and Summary topics included:

- The Murrumbidgee Allocations Statement,
- The Application of the Water Sharing Plan: Operational Function
- The History of the Lake Mejum/Lake Coolah storage area plus facts and figures and observations of the potential storage project and the need for a feasibility study.
- Water, Risk and Irrigator's use.
- Climate change modelling
- Draft Regional Water Strategy
- Priorities of water usage.

The Region 9 Members continue to be involved in a range of forums and areas of interest around water delivery and water use space in this Region.

Members attend meetings such as the WaterNSW Murrumbidgee Customer Advisory Group and the River Operators Stakeholder Consultation Committee.

The Region 9 Members resolved in May 2022 to provide a submission to the Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy with a submission made by the Group pointing to a number of inclusions and amendments that should be considered.

In recent meetings a topic of focus has been the Yanco Creek Modernisation Project. The group will pursue more detail around this project in terms of its funding and its importance amongst the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism.

More will also be discussed on the Lake Mejum / Lake Coolah proposal for a water storage facility. This, like the Modernisation Project, are just two essential areas for further consideration by Government to ensuring sustainable water availability in this area.

Region 9 enjoys the assistance from the various Departments, both Federal and State, to supply information to ensure informed discussion on many topics.

REGION 9 REPORT (continued)



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



This partnering will continue to make for a better understanding of the future projects, water allocations and strategies in our region.

On the back of this, the Region 9 group continues to urge our state and federal representatives to ensure implemented or potential water initiatives effectively achieve outcomes that will benefit our region.

This is even more important following on from the past couple of years of wetter than average times against the backdrop of climate change.

The awareness and importance of sustainable water policy is now more important than ever before.

We look forward to the MDA National Conference and the opportunities to network with other regions with a collegiate approach to ensuring the best outcomes for our regions and the entire Basin.



Mayor Paul Maytom
Outgoing Chair, Region 9



Cr Glen Andrezza
Incoming Chair, Region 9



PHOTO: Courtesy of www.griffith.nsw.gov.au



PHOTO: Leeton Shire Council Main Street, night

REGION 10A REPORT



Region 10 covers an enormous footprint and takes in the largest number of councils of any region in the Murray-Darling Basin. This leads to difficulties in engagement and collaboration.

Following initial consultation regarding regional boundary realignment, the MDA established Region 10A in the 2020-2021 period to better serve and grow our membership in this region with experience MDA Chair Mayor Craig Davies of Narromine Shire Council leading the growth of this important region.

The region will be confirmed following the completion of the MDA's Regional Boundary Review.

Chair

Mayor Craig Davies Narromine Shire Council

Members

Bogan Shire Council

Cobar Shire Council

Coonamble Shire Council

Warren Shire Council

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Mid-Western Regional Council

Gilgandra Shire Council

Narromine Shire Council

Region 10 A, centred on the Macquarie, Castlereagh and Cudgegong Rivers is currently experiencing our third wet Winter in a row.

The regions dams are at either record or near record levels with Burrendong currently at 128% and Windemere 82%. Airspace in Burrendong has become a priority as further inflows are predicted across the next 4-6 months. Given that all on farm storages are full, there is likely to be no irrigation drawdown from the dams until late December adding to the potential for flooding.

Whilst the wet is causing significant issues across our flood plains it is also delivering ideal conditions for cropping. Though somewhat late the regions crops are looking superb and hopefully we can avoid the wet harvests of the two previous years.

Inland Rail is also finally having a positive impact across much of our region with work starting on the Narromine to Narrabri section in the past fortnight. This massive infrastructure project will create thousands of permanent jobs along the corridor in the coming years and deliver \$billions of investment to the regions. The corridor is set to become an economic powerhouse with new industries establishing across many regions.

We are all hopeful of some positive outcomes in both the water and environment space at a Federal level and the appointment of Tanya Plibersek may bring about some initiatives that give rise to better outcomes in both areas without losing economic production and the associated loss of jobs. Having met with her in Dubbo last week I was impressed with her willingness to listen and learn and look forward to better outcomes than those delivered by the Coalition.



PHOTO: Courtesy of www.narromine.nsw.gov.au

Cr Craig Davies
Chair Region 10A



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder works with First Nations, state agencies, communities and scientists to deliver water for the environment when and where plants and animals need it most.

See how water for the environment is making a difference:

dceew.gov.au/water/cewo/making-a-difference



REGION 11 REPORT

Region 1 comprises total of 13 councils, of which 4 are members of the MDA. Region 1 has 1 individual member and 1 life member. The committee is made up of:

Chair

Cr Jamie Chaffey	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr John Campbell (Outgoing)	Gunnedah Shire Council

Committee members

Cr Greg Sauer	Tenterfield Shire Council
Cr Trish Frail	Brewarrina Shire Council

Members

Brewarrina Shire Council
Gunnedah Shire Council
Gwydir Shire Council
Tenterfield Shire Council
Walgett Shire Council
Liverpool Plains Shire

Other Eligible Councils

Coonamble Shire Council
Armidale Dumaresq Council
Glen Innes Severn Council
Inverell Shire Council
Narrabri Shire Council
Tamworth Regional Council
Uralla Shire Council
Walcha Shire Council
Moree Plains Shire Council

Three region meetings were held during the reporting year.

Date	Location
Thursday 27 May 2021	
Thursday 11 November 2021	
Friday 12 August 2022	

At the time of writing this report, the storage capacity for our dams are currently at 99.9% Pindari Dam, 79% Split Rock Dam, 99.9% Copeton Dam, 100.5% Chaffey Dam and 98.6% Keepit Dam.

Since the last Annual Report, I am very pleased to share the positive news that throughout Region 11 there has been significant ongoing record rainfall resulting in isolated flooding, swollen rivers, full dams, which has resulted in our agricultural communities rebounding extremely well.

Farewell to outgoing Chairperson, Councillor John Campbell (Gunnedah Shire Council)

Thank you to outgoing Chairperson John Campbell for his service from May 2020 to December 2021, regrettably John decided not to run for re-election at the 2021 NSW Local Government Elections.

I was humbled to be re-elected as the incoming chairperson for Region 11 for the next 12 months, after Acting in the position until the Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to Councillor Greg Sauer from Tenterfield Council on being elected as Deputy Chairperson. We along with our member Council representatives are committed to advocate strongly for our slice of heaven within the Basin.

I look forward to meeting with everyone at the MDA Conference in Albury.



PHOTO: Extensive Flooding across the plains in the Gunnedah Shire during the November 2021 floods



Cr John Campbell
Outgoing Chair, Region 11



Cr Jamie Chaffey
Incoming Chair, Region 11

How much are blue green algae outbreaks costing you?

- Unhealthy waterways
- Cancelled Sporting Championships
- Closed Tourist Attractions
- Lost visitor revenue



EarthTec is an economical solution to control algae.



IXOM distributes EarthTec®
au.orders@ixom.com

1300 559 262
www.ixom.com

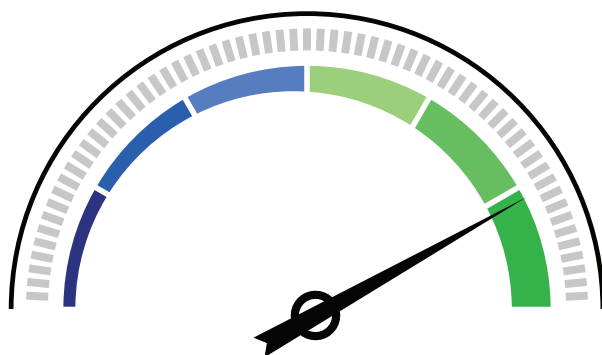
REPORT ON OUR PERFORMANCE

The MDA tracks its performance in many ways.

Primarily, we report on completed actions that we committed to in our strategic plan using the planning and reporting framework incorporated in the plan.

Other ways the MDA tracks our performance can be a little more complex.

We assess how the MDA's motions at conference, and commitment to action have shifted-the-need in informing policy in the management of Basin resources.



Resolutions made at the MDA's annual national conference contribute to important reforms in the policies and practice, guiding the health and sustainability of Basin communities, economies and ecologies.

Our resolutions and actions enable the MDA to build consensus, to share and to ensure local knowledge informs our national priorities.

Our annual national conference and AGM brings together those community leaders and speakers who, together with our members, can explore the great challenges of our time.

In 2022, our National Conference has attracted an incredible line-up of guest speakers.

The Annual Gala Dinner address will see a reflection on the Murray River and its impact on Albury history by Albury & District Historical Society President Mr Greg Ryan.

This year's conference offers the opportunity to hear from the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, the Shadow Water Minister, Senator Perin Davey, QLD Water Minister, the Hon Glenn Butcher, Member for Nicholls, Sam Birrell, and the Inspector-General of Water Compliance, the Hon Troy Grant, all known for their advocacy for, and work regarding, water across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Other speakers at the National Conference include a powerful range of community, business, science, education, and industry leaders.

Offering direct engagement and networking with business and government bodies, the Murray Darling Association's Conference Exhibition booths will feature IXOM, PSTR Group, Water Stewardship Asia Pacific, and the Commonwealth Government bodies MDBA, CEWO, DCCEEW, and the Bureau of Meteorology.

Our national conference, our AGM, and other events continue to deliver outcomes that ensure local government and the communities we serve inform the state and federal policies that impact our regions.

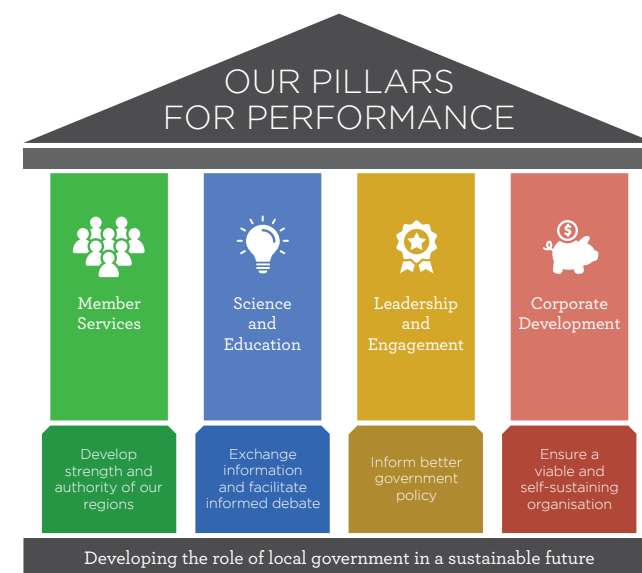


MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

The following table is a snapshot of some of the meetings at which our members' interests were promoted by the MDA Executive leadership.

Month	Name
June 2021	Meeting with The Hon Troy Grant Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance
June 2021	Meeting with Chris Baisaga Water Advisor to the Hon Keith Pitt
June 2021	Meeting with Senator Perin Davey
June 2021	DPIE - Water and Projects team
June 2021	Meeting with the Productivity Commission
July 2021	Jim Bentley CEO Water Division DPIE
July 2021	Mike Stewardson, One Basin CRC Partner Discussion
July 2021	Carina Wybotne ANU Climate Change and the MDB
July 2021	Rose Jackson MLA NSW Opposition Water
August 2021	Paul Weller Victorian Water Committee - Dairy
August 2021	One Basin CRC Value Proposition Workshop
August 2021	MRLGA Water Position Working Group Consultant Presentation
Sept 2021	MRLGA Water Position Working Group Consultation
Sept 2021	Reconnecting River Country Program Peak Body Focus Group
Sept 2021	Basin Official Committee MDA Presentation
Sept 2021	GM Terry Dodds - Murray River Council

Month	Name
Sept 2021	Hon Damian Drum MP
Sept 2021	Select Committee inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting - MDA Presentation
Oct 2021	Region 6 Annual Stakeholder Symposium
Oct 2021	SQNNSW Drought Resilience Hub Partner/Member workshop
Oct 2021	Deanne Armstrong - C4EM
Oct 2021	MDA/CSIRO Science and Advisory Committee
Nov 2021	One Basin CRC All Partner Meeting
Nov 2021	Senator Perin Davey
Nov 2021	Hon Mark Coulton MP
Nov 2021	Hon Melinda Pavey MP - NSW Minister for Water
Nov 2021	National Water Grid Advisory Body MDA presentation
Nov 2021	Hon Sussan Ley MP
Dec 2021	Hon Damian Drum MP
Jan 2022	Hon Kevin Anderson MP - Minister Lands and Water
Jan 2022	Terri Butler MP - Shadow Minister for Environment & Water
Jan 2022	Lu Hogan - UNE



Month	Name
Jan 2022	Lisa Neville - VIC Minister for Water
Feb 2022	One Basin CRC
Feb 2022	S QLD and N NSW Drought Hub Partners Meeting - Armidale Node
Feb 2022	2WEB Radio Interview
Feb 2022	Hon Troy Grant - Inspector General of Water Compliance
Feb 2022	Jim Bentley - DPIE
March 2022	Darling Downs & SW QLD Council of Mayors
May 2022	MRLGA Working Group - Water Position Paper Monthly meetings 2021 -2022
June 2022	Jim Bentley - DPIE
Sept 2022	CSIRO Brisbane, discussing the Circular and Waste Management Economy



PILLAR 1 – MEMBER SERVICES

VISION 2025

In 2021 the MDA launched its five-year Strategic Plan: Vision 2025, following approval by the MDA membership at the 76th Annual General Meeting.

During the past year, the MDA's focus has been implementing year two of our 5 year plan, and giving effect to the priorities for local government outlined by our members at past National Conferences.

This Strategic Plan sets out our five-year goals and describes the strategies the MDA will implement to achieve them, committing to providing a regular report card to our members to provide updates on our performance in delivering these strategies, and our progress in achieving our goals.

This plan sets the course to ensure local leadership is elevated to a national priority in the management of Basin resources in the years ahead.

We look forward to delivering the plan alongside our members, stakeholders, and partners.

The MDA is committed to providing high-value, high quality services to members. Our services, products, and programs seek to provide enduring value to Basin communities and governments.

The following report highlights our progress and achievements in Pillar 1: Member Services.

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	NOTES
<p>1.1.4 Deliver tailored projects and initiatives which meet the current and emerging needs of the Basin.</p>	→	<p>Delivered. Ongoing.</p> <p>The MDA has concluded its delivery of the Basin Communities Leadership Program across the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>Further projects and initiatives are currently being developed based on member needs and funding is being sought.</p>
<p>1.1.5 Enhance and expand the resources, materials and products available for our members.</p> <p>Design and develop content such as videos, web pages, Delegates' Report template.</p>	✓	<p>Delivered. Ongoing.</p> <p>Currently providing a range of member resources, including delegate reports and briefing reports.</p> <p>The MDA continues to improve resources, materials and products based on member feedback.</p>
<p>1.2.3 Create and utilise a standard format for position statements that captures research and Board resolutions, and articulates clearly the MDA's position.</p>	✓	<p>The MDA has developed a standard format for position statements.</p>
<p>1.2.4 Deliver the Basin Communities Leadership Program.</p>	✓	<p>Delivered. Ongoing.</p> <p>The MDA has concluded its delivery of the Basin Communities Leadership Program across the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>The MDA is exploring a fee-for-service approach to tailor the BCLP for community, local government, and industry groups.</p>



FOSTERING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS IN SCIENCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Partnerships are key for the responsible management of Basin resources.

The MDA is very excited to note its continued development of the official partnership with Australia's national science research agency, the CSIRO with the delivery of the MDA-CSIRO Circular Economy Market Analysis, exploring the challenges and opportunities in the Murray-Darling Basin in the implementation and development of a circular/waste economy.

PILLAR 2 – SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

The MDA is committed to contributing to the evidence that supports a healthy, vibrant and thriving Basin. By enabling and providing opportunities for our members and others to learn and share knowledge, we contribute to longer-term positive impacts for our Basin communities.

The following report highlights our progress and achievements in Pillar 2: Science and Education.

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	NOTES
2.1.3 Participate and contribute toward Basin committees, reviews, commissions, inquiries and other interrogative forums.	✓	Delivered. Ongoing. During the past year, the MDA has participated in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to the Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan 2021 • Submission to NSW Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting August 2021 • Submission to National Water Reform inquiry March 2021
2.2.2 Work with universities and the academic community to apply science and deliver practical solutions to local and regional problems.	→	Ongoing. MDA continues to engage key partners, particularly within the science and education space, including:
2.3.1 Engage key partners (agencies, universities and other key stakeholders) to collaborate and build on existing initiatives.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDA-CSIRO Circular Economy Market Analysis • Partner in the One Basin CRC bid
2.4.2 Partner with CSIRO on appropriate projects and opportunities including 'Basin Outlook 2050.'	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partner in Innovation Hub.
2.3.3 Host a calendar of events which focus on providing opportunities for learning about and sharing contemporary and emerging issues.	✓	Delivered. Ongoing. The MDA has hosted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Region 6 Annual Stakeholder Symposium • 2022 MDA 78th National Conference



REGIONAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Pillar 3 seeks to establish the MDA as ideally positioned to be the go-to organisation for governments and others in relation to Basin policy.

Our strong and effective leadership on Basin matters enables us to effectively engage with internal and external stakeholders.

The strategic objectives relate to:

- Being engaged in the policy process
- Building stronger regions and supporting local action
- Creating opportunities for valued collaboration
- Strong stakeholder relationships.

PILLAR 3 – LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

The MDA is ideally positioned to be the go-to organisation for governments and others in relation to Basin policy. Our strong and effective leadership on Basin matters enables us to effectively engage with internal and external stakeholders.

The following report highlights our progress and achievements in Pillar 3: Leadership and Engagement.

OBJECTIVES	STATUS	NOTES
<p>3.1.1 Prepare and submit high quality documents to key Basin stakeholders.</p> <p>Participate effectively in Basin forums</p> <p>Initiate member-driven discussion with MPs as emerging issues arise.</p>	✓	<p>Delivered. Ongoing.</p> <p>The MDA continues to elevate local and regional issues to state and national levels through meetings with ministers and department representatives. To prepare for each meeting, the MDA consults with member councils to inform high quality documents identifying matters and issues raised by members.</p> <p>The MDA continues to participate effectively in Basin forums.</p>
<p>3.1.2 Continue to push for local government's seat at the table when Basin resource management is discussed.</p>	✓	<p>At the 76th National Conference and AGM, the MDA membership resolved that the MDA continue to seek representation of local government as a sector at the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and the Basin Official Committee. As a result, this year the MDA has continued to push for local government to have a greater role in Basin resource management through meetings with ministers, submissions and participating in Basin forums.</p>



PILLAR 4 – CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

If there is one thing the Murray-Darling River system needs as much as rain, it's leadership.
Cr David Thurley, OAM, MDA National President

This year, the MDA continued to make leadership happen, through drought, COVID and now floods.

Face-to-face workshops were held across NSW, VIC, and SA, concluding the rollout of the Basin Communities Leadership Program.

The MDA has been absolutely blown away by the inspiring individuals who attended the workshops, all bringing their best selves to the workshops, including their energy, knowledge and passion for making their community and the Murray-Darling Basin the best place that it can be.

Valued at over \$4,500 per person, this program was a wonderful opportunity for our member councils to get involved in and encourage their staff members and fellow councillors to apply.

This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

The MDA seeks to continue to develop its legitimate, effective and respected leadership, and ensure its leadership reflects the diversity and expertise of our communities. We are committed to ensuring our organisation is financially sustainable and corporately robust.

The following report highlights our progress and achievements in Pillar 4: Corporate Development.

4.1.1	Provide and promote leadership development opportunities for our members.	✓	Delivered. Ongoing. MDA member councils were offered leadership opportunities through participation in the BCLP. Full enrolment of a complete cohort was valued at over \$67,500 per workshop, representing a significant contribution to council's training and development budget at no out of pocket cost to council.
4.2.5	Encourage membership renewal through robust internal communications. Follow up with non-renewing councils to identify reasons for non-renewal.	✓	Ongoing. Internal communications now includes monthly newsletter and monthly delegate's report for tabling at council, allowing councils to effectively report on MDA value.
4.4.1	Develop and implement succession planning for the organisation	→	Ongoing. The MDA is currently developing a sound succession plan for all key roles within the organisation.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

The MDA has continued to work partnering local government and communities with our valued partners and stakeholders. These partnerships are essential to deliver strong outcomes for our communities and build future focused collaboration opportunities for our members.

We value the partnerships we have established across the Basin that are essential to the effective performance of our organisation and the achievement of our goals:

OUR PARTNERS	OUR INTENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Basin LGAs including regional and state local government organisations 	Collaborate effectively and respectfully to maximise efficiencies for local government and their peak agencies by avoiding duplication and providing multi-jurisdictional perspectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Basin Governments ▶ Murray Darling Basin Authority ▶ National Water Grid Authority ▶ Climate Change Authority ▶ Australian Energy Market Authority ▶ Commonwealth Environmental Water Office 	Fairly and frankly represent the interests and priorities of local government at the Basin scale on positions of common interest. Collaborate and exchange information and advice to improve knowledge and awareness of Basin issues, and of the impacts of policy and decisions to create better outcomes for local government and communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ State and national peak bodies and other agencies 	Consult and work with state and national peak bodies and other agencies to foster a stronger relationship to local government of sector-specific perspectives and issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First Nations organisations 	That we learn from, respect and treasure the natural resource management practices of First Nations custodians.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional Development Australia 	Work together to maximise benefits and value for all, and progress the relationship ensuring that our roles are clear and our collaboration adds value to the work we do. Through our partnership we aim to avoid unnecessary duplication.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Universities 	Partner with universities to enhance water literacy, and provide practical application of academic research for the benefit of local government and community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ CSIRO 	Ongoing work developing a framework under which we will collaborate on research projects to conduct research, development and related activities to overcome the key challenges of resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin and turn them to the Basin community's unique advantage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Media 	Promote the interests and achievements of our Basin communities through the media.

PHOTO: Urrbrae Wetlands. Courtesy of Cr Andrew Tilley.

OUR PEOPLE



Mark Lamb
Chief Executive Officer

An experienced senior management executive, Mark joined the Murray Darling Association in December 2021 in the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Mark has worked across various sectors, both at a local level and for global organisations, and is passionate about peak bodies, having led three peak bodies, both domestically and Internationally. Mark has an exceptional track record of organisational development, membership growth, conferencing and events, and consensus-building across complex policy areas.

Mark began his career in banking and finance, before transitioning to more broadly-based financial services including financial planning and risk management. He has held a number of strategic and consulting roles, especially in relation to key areas such as leadership and team building, marketing and distribution, with proven business, strategy and operational skills. Much of his consulting was focused on the areas of professionalism - quality improvement and change management - both internally and externally. Mark has assisted many organisations to transition into new strategies and methodologies. He has global experience and expertise in training and has conducted open and in-house training courses around the world, and is a highly-rated lecturer, trainer and facilitator, experienced in behavioural change management.



Tim Phillips
Communications and Engagement Officer

A qualified Graphic Designer, Tim joined the Murray Darling Association in August 2021 in the role of Communications and Engagement Officer.

Since joining the association, Tim has enjoyed meeting the MDA's region chairs and delegates at various events throughout the year including the 78th National Conference in Albury NSW and the MDA's Annual Strategic Planning Workshop in Canberra ACT, learning through these meetings and events about the Murray-Darling Basin's complex issues and many opportunities.



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) was established on 1 July 2022 to deliver on the Australian Government's climate change and energy agenda and to protect Australia's environment and water resources. The department brings together some Commonwealth water functions that are responsible for improving the sustainable management of Australia's water supply. These functions include:

- Water Division
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- National Water Grid Authority
- Office of the Inspector General of Water Compliance

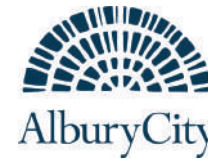
For more information, visit the department's website: www.dcceew.gov.au

Region 6 is delighted to invite delegates to the 2023 MDA National Conference hosted by the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

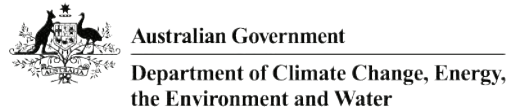


The Murray Darling Association would like to thank our valued partners for their generous support:

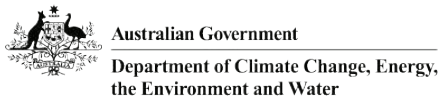
STRATEGIC PARTNERS



SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021 - 22

Working With Our Clients, Not Simply For Them



Experienced accountant Peter George of M+S Group was appointed the Murray Darling Association's first skills-based treasurer in 2017, marking a new era in financial administration for the organisation.

Mr George's appointment to the MDA Board as a skills-based treasurer is allowed under Part 4 s8(3) of the 2016 Constitution, and sees the association's continuing commitment to sound governance, with the composition of the board viewed as a strategic asset to the association.

Peter is Senior Accountant and Partner of M+S Group Accounting Pty Ltd, the largest accounting firm in rural Victoria.

The MDA gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Peter George and M+S Group Accounting.



m+s group
accounting

Committee's Report

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

For the period ended 31 March 2022

Committee's Report

Your Committee members submit the financial report of Murray Darling Association Inc. for the financial period ended 31 March 2022.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the period and at the date of this report are:

Cr David Thurley	National President	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr David Thurley	Chair Region 1	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Bronwyn Thomas	Chair Region 2	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Vacant	Chair Region 3	
Cr Jane MacAllister	Chair Region 4	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Peter Raison	Chair Region 5	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Chair Region 6	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Andrew Tilley	Chair Region 7	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Brian Lockyer	Chair Region 8	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Paul Maytom	Chair Region 9	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Mayor Phyllis Miller	Chair Region 10	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Craig Davies	Chair Region 10A	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr John Campbell	Chair Region 11	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Cr Samantha O'Toole	Chair Region 12	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022
Emma Bradbury	Public Officer	April 1st 2021 - November 30th 2021
Mark Lamb	Public Officer	November 22nd 2021 - March 31st 2022
Peter George	Treasurer	April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial period were:

To provide effective representation of local government and communities of the Murray Darling Basin at state and federal level in the management of Basin Resources by providing information, facilitating informed debate, and seeking to influence government policy.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial period.


Operating Result

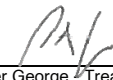
The surplus / (loss) after providing for income tax for the financial period amounted to (\$210,476) - [31 March 2021 (\$2,428)]

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:


 Cr David Thurley - National President


 Peter George - Treasurer

Dated: 13th September 2022

Income and Expenditure Statement

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

For the period ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
	Note	
Conference Income	80,840	75,203
Income - Memberships	2 221,167	232,327
Income - Projects	160,550	240,827
Income From Fundraising Events	317	507
Interest Income	3 53	153
Other Income	4 155	117,293
Total Income	463,082	666,310
Expenditure		
Depreciation		
Depreciation - Low Value Pool	36	79
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	-	3,426
Depreciation - Software	1,867	3,111
Depreciation - Office Equipment	2,020	3,263
Total Depreciation	3,923	9,879
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2,963	2,589
Motor Vehicle Registration	1,238	856
Total Motor Vehicles	4,201	3,445
Advertising & Marketing	27,932	17,259
Bank Fees	854	1,249
Business Insurance	2,061	2,061
Computer Expenses	11,760	7,661
Conference Expenses	87,090	58,766
Engagement and Communications	6,326	109
General Repairs & Maintenance	824	188
Licences and Subscriptions	4,649	41,040
Loss on sale of assets	386	9,116
Project Expenses	28,884	18,255
Meeting Expense	6,743	1,545
Other Payroll Expenses	5 (58,242)	12,077
Postage	90	910
Premises Rent - Echuca	27,332	21,816
Printing	1,332	2,790
Professional Fees	6 70,351	31,220
Public Liability Insurance	1,224	1,196
Staff Amenities	-	374
Stationery	676	2,107
Superannuation	25,299	32,382
Telephone Expenses	6,232	4,037
Travel & Accom. Expenses	28,004	27,384
Wages & Salaries Expenses	381,043	358,404
Work Cover Premiums	4,583	3,468
Total Expenditure	673,558	668,738
Net Operating Profit / (Loss) For The period	(210,476)	(2,428)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Assets and Liabilities Statement

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

As at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand	7	19,129	376,298
Accounts Receivable and other Debtors	8	1,874	49,994
Total Current Assets		21,003	426,292
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	10,923	16,133
Other	10	-	1,100
Total Non-Current Assets		10,923	17,233
Total Assets		31,926	443,525
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and other payables	11	63,323	201,889
Provisions	13	24,695	87,252
Total Current Liabilities		88,018	289,141
Non-Current Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	12	1,500	1,500
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,500	1,500
Total Liabilities		89,518	290,641
Net Assets		(57,592)	152,884
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve			
Reserves		-	-
Retained Earnings		(57,592)	152,884
Total Member's Funds		(57,592)	152,884

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Movements in Equity

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

For the period ended 31 March 2022

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	155,312	-	155,312
Comprehensive Income			
Profit (Loss) for the period	(2,428)	-	(2,428)
Total Comprehensive Income	(2,428)	-	(2,428)
Other Revaluations	-	-	-
Total Other	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	152,884	-	152,884
Balance at 1 April 2021	152,884	-	152,884
Comprehensive Income			
Profit (Loss) for the period	(210,476)	-	(210,476)
Total Comprehensive Income	(210,476)	-	(210,476)
Other Revaluations	-	-	-
Total Other	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	(57,592)	-	(57,592)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

For the period ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Cash flows from Operating Activities			
Other Receipts		519,934	689,698
Interest Received		53	153
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(693,942)	(664,819)
Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Operating Activities	18b	(173,955)	25,032
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from sale of Property, plant and equipment		1,100	27,862
Payments for Property, plant and equipment		(1,233)	(27,727)
Other cash items from Investing activities		14,676	(20,926)
Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Investing Activities		14,544	(20,791)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Other cash items from financing activities		(197,768)	(65,682)
Net Cash Provided by (Used In) from Financing Activities		(197,768)	(65,682)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(357,179)	(61,441)
Cash on Hand at beginning of the Financial period		376,308	437,749
Cash on Hand at End of Financial period	18a	<u>19,129</u>	<u>376,308</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes of the Financial Statements

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

For the period ended 31 March 2022

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and the Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010. The Board has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report covers Murray Darling Association Inc. as an individual entity. Murray Darling Association Inc. is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and the Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010.

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern and accruals basis, and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is also the Association's functional currency.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association is exempt from income tax pursuant to Division 50, section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Fixed Assets are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all Fixed Assets is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a diminishing-value basis over the asset's useful life to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

NOTES CONTINUED

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Contractual receivables include accrued interest and other minor receivables. They are recognised at fair value.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus any related on-costs. Both annual leave and long service leave are recognised within the provisions liability.

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the association's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The association's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Upon the re-measurement of obligations for other long-term employee benefits, the net change in the obligation is recognised in profit or loss as a part of employee benefits expense.

The association's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Cash on Hand

Cash includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

NOTES CONTINUED

Revenue and Other Income

Membership, Grants, Project, Activities & Interest revenue are recognised when received.

Donations and bequests are recognised in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1004 Contributions, which occurs when all of the following three conditions are satisfied: -

- (a) the entity gains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution; and
- (b) it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the entity; and
- (c) the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Murray Darling Foundation

The Murray Darling Foundation was established by the Murray Darling Association Inc. As a "Gift Fund" to receive tax deductible donations. The principal activity of the Foundation is to support the objectives of the Murray Darling Association Inc. The Foundation may receive gifts of money or property which are eligible tax deductible donations under item 6.1.1 of sub-section 30-55(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Foundation is not currently operational. The Board resolved to suspend its activities pending a review of its purpose and the formation of a new committee.

Leases

Leases of PPE, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Contractual payables arise when the association becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of goods and services. They are initially recognised at fair value, and then subsequently carried at amortised cost.

NOTES CONTINUED

	2022	2021
2. Memberships		
Memberships	221,167	232,327
3. Interest Income		
Interest Received	53	153
4. Other Income		
Sundry Income	155	27,376
ATO Cashflow Boost	-	89,917
	<u>155</u>	<u>117,293</u>
5. Employee Entitlements		
Annual and Long Service Leave	(58,242)	12,077
6. Professional Fees		
Consulting Fees	62,166	25,620
Audit Fees	8,185	5,600
	<u>70,351</u>	<u>31,220</u>
7. Cash on Hand		
Cash At Bank	<u>19,129</u>	<u>376,298</u>
	19,129	376,298
8. Accounts Receivable and other Debtors		
Trade Debtors	808	8,250
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	-
Goods and Services Tax	1,066	41,744
	<u>1,874</u>	<u>49,994</u>

NOTES CONTINUED

	2022	2021
9. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office Furniture, Equipment and Computers	9,670	15,793
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,546)	(9,458)
	<u>3,124</u>	<u>6,335</u>
Low Value Pool	-	1,761
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(1,630)
	<u>-</u>	<u>131</u>
Software	23,300	23,300
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(20,501)	(18,633)
	<u>2,799</u>	<u>4,667</u>
Artwork	5,000	5,000
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>10,923</u>	<u>16,133</u>
10. Other Non-Current Assets		
Bond Paid - Office	-	1,100
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,100</u>
11. Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors	2,480	5,196
Prepaid Memberships	-	13,576
BCLP Grant Received	21,661	170,769
Tax Payable	39,182	12,348
	<u>63,323</u>	<u>201,889</u>
12. Borrowings		
Non-Current		
Debenture Loans	1,500	1,500
13. Provisions		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	15,662	52,561
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	21,343
Superannuation Liability	9,033	13,348
	<u>24,695</u>	<u>87,252</u>
Provision for Annual Leave		
Opening Balance 1 April 2021	52,561	48,803
Additional Provisions Raised	58,084	(662)
Amounts Taken	(94,984)	4,420
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>15,661</u>	<u>52,561</u>
Provision for Long Service Leave		
Opening Balance 1 April 2021	21,343	13,024
Additional Provisions Raised	2,891	8,319
Amounts Taken	(24,234)	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>21,343</u>

NOTES CONTINUED

	2022	2021
Total Provisions		
Opening Balance 1 April 2021	73,904	61,827
Additional Provisions Raised	60,975	7,657
Amounts Taken	(119,218)	4,420
Superannuation Liability	9,033	13,348
Balance at 31 March 2022	24,695	87,252

14. Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records revaluations of non-current assets. Under certain circumstances dividends can be declared from this reserve.

15. Capital Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 March 2022 (31 March 2021: \$Nil)

16. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

There are no Contingent Liabilities at 31 March 2022 (31 March 2021: \$Nil). There are no Contingent Assets at 31 March 2022 (31 March 2021: \$Nil).

17. Events after the reporting period

Since 31 March 2022, there have been no events that would materially affect the Financial Statements at Balance Date.

	2022	2021
Reconciliation of Cash		
(a) Cash on Hand at the end of the financial period as included in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash at Bank	19,129	376,308
	19,129	376,308
(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with net current period profit		
Current period profit after income tax	(210,476)	(2,428)
Cash flows excluded from current period profit:		
Depreciation Expense	3,923	9,879
Impairment Loss / (Gain) on Fixed Assets	386	9,116
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	48,120	41,988
(Increase) / Decrease in Prepayments	(13,576)	13,576
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	60,224	(55,021)
Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	(62,556)	7,922
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(173,955)	25,032

Statement by Members of the Committee

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED


For the period ended 31 March 2022

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In accordance with a resolution of the committee of Murray Darling Association Inc. the members of the committee declare that the financial statements as set out on pages 15 to 26:

- 1 present a true and fair view of the financial position of Murray Darling Association Inc. as at 31 March 2022 and its performance for the period ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010; and
- 2 at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Murray Darling Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:


 Cr David Thurley - National President


 Peter George - Treasurer

Dated: 13th September 2022

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INC**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Murray Darling Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 March 2022, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Murray Darling Association Inc as of 31 March 2022, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the Murray Darling Association Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, committees are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Warren Pollock
Registered Company Auditor 224497
Kelly Partners Bendigo Partnership
Location - Bendigo
bendigo@kellypartners.com.au

14 September 2022

Kelly Partners (Bendigo) Pty Ltd ABN 99 657 000 989

1 Somerville Street, Bendigo Victoria 3550
PO Box 793, Bendigo, Victoria 3552
+61 3 5443 8888 bendigo@kellypartners.com.au

kellypartners.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



HONOR ROLL

OF THE MURRAY VALLEY DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE, THE MURRAY VALLEY LEAGUE,
AND THE MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INC.

LIFE MEMBERS

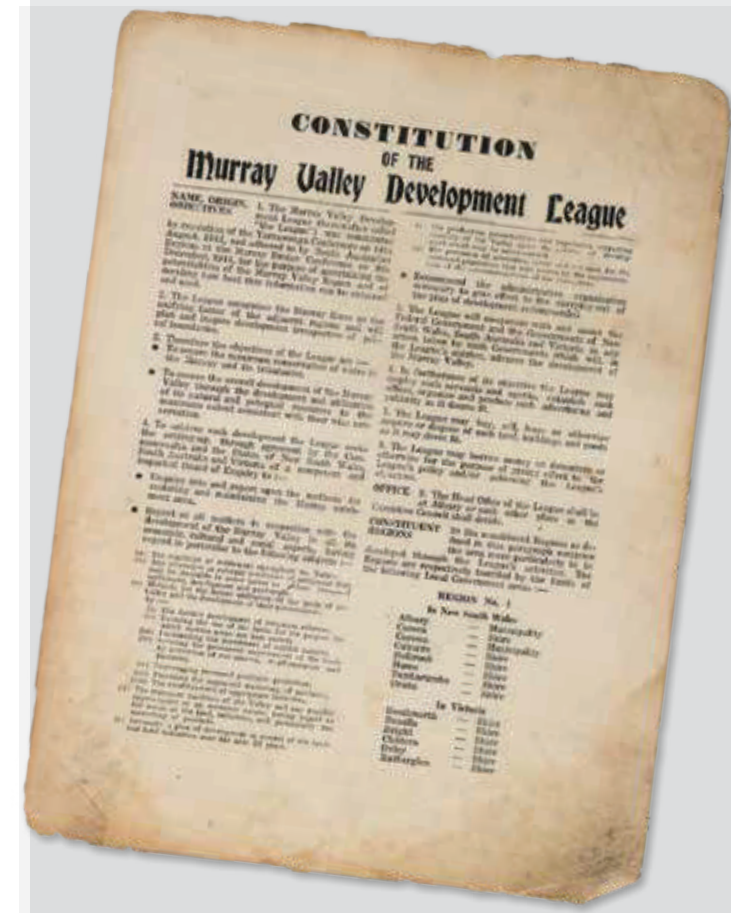
Mr Graham Camac	Meningie
Ms Pauline Frost	Adelaide
Mr Bill Gorman	Yarrowonga
Mr Brian J Grogan OAM	Mildura
Cr Les Hill	Berri
Dr Terry Hillman	Lavington
Mr Jim Hullick OAM	Adelaide
Mr J Bede Mecham	Wagga Wagga
Mr Ken Rogers	Dubbo
Mr Max Moor	Barmah
Mr Phillip Moore	Melbourne
Mr Don Oberin	Echuca
Mr Kevin Pell OAM	Nathalia
Cr Wulf Reichler OAM	Brewarrina*
Cr Stuart Anderson OAM	Moama*
Mr David Dalzell	Whyalla*
Dr Peter Davies	Adelaide*
Mr James Wallace Gemmell	Cobram*
Mr Albert Heslop	Swan Hill*
Mr Ralph Jacobi	Adelaide*

PRESIDENTS

D G Padman	Albury*	1944 to 1952
J G Strangman	Waikerie*	1952 to 1956
Henry Lester Smith OBE	Kerang*	1956 to 1960
E Verco Whyte	Wentworth*	1960 to 1965
Robert S Rankin OBE	Rochester*	1968 to 1971
Paul Gerard Schmidt	Mannum*	1971 to 1974
Jim W Gemmell	Cobram*	1974 to 1977
Jack J Larkin OAM	Kooloonong*	1977 to 1982
Don K Oberin	Echuca	1982 to 1986
Jim M Hullick OAM	Adelaide	1986 to 1989

Mr Ian Killmister	Nathalia*
Mr Jack James Larkin OAM	Kooloonong*
Mr Gunnar Vernon Lawrence AM	Hawthorn*
Mr John Joseph McGuire	*
Cr Neil McKinnon OAM	Jerilderie*
Mr T Norm Martin	Wodonga*
Cr Reg Mengler	Balranald*
Dr William Andres Merrylees	Carrathool*
Mr Thomas Ernest Pearsall	Albury*
Mr Percival Alfred Yeomans	*
Mr Wal Perry	Port Elliott*
Mr Phillip Potter	Narooma*
Ms Agnes Isabel Robertson	Albury*
Cr Max Schmidt	Paringa*
Mr Robert Starritt Rankin OBE	Rochester*
Mr HG Tredinnick	Murray Valley*
Mr Allen Tume	Adelaide*
Mr Henry Lester Smith MBE	Kerang*
Cr Maurice Wilhelm OAM	Murray Bridge*
Mr Percy Weston	Eurobin*

* Passed



The Murray Darling Association formed in 1944, then named the Murray Valley Development League. A coalition of councils with the objective working with the states and Commonwealth to ensure sufficient water supplies and hydro-electricity to support sustainable production in agriculture, business and industry across the Murray Valley, the association expanded to cover the whole of the Murray-Darling Basin in 1983.

