



MEDIA RELEASE

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Applications now open for MDA's Basin Communities Leadership Program

The Murray Darling Association, Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin, has officially launched the inaugural MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program (BCLP).

This unique leadership program will initially be delivered across 15 Basin communities severely impacted by water buybacks. The aim of the program is to develop the leadership capacity and create regionally driven economic development initiatives against a backdrop of changing water availability and ongoing drought.

Communities where the program will operate include Dirranbandi, St George and Cunnamulla in QLD, Collarenebri, Warren and Wakool in NSW, Rochester, Merbein, Red Cliffs in VIC, Colignan in NSW/VIC, and Berri, Cobdogla-Barmera, Loxton, Swan Reach and Lower Lakes in SA

"We recognise that Basin communities are in an unprecedented era of change. Many communities are finding difficulty in navigating the complex landscape of water reform, many feel that they are not being heard, and that they are being left behind in consultation and community participation processes," said Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury.

"The MDA Basin Communities Leadership Program will empower communities to make transformative change. This can only occur within communities when they have strong leadership - this enables communities to join the conversation, make informed decisions and create a vision and framework to determine the success of their own future."

The program will be delivered through mixed method delivery, including a 2-day face-to-face workshop, online interactive leadership modules and project development within their local community.

The MDA is committed to increasing community and regional capacity building. The workshops and group project will identify local projects, develop strategies, and participants will be guided to implement local solutions to enhance community economic health, social wellbeing, diversity and prosperity.

Applications are now open. The MDA encourages community leaders from participating communities to apply for the program.

To register your interest, or learn more about the leadership program, please contact the Murray Darling Association via email (bclp@mda.asn.au) or visit the [MDA website](#).

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