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MEDIA RELEASE

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MDA welcomes Socio-Economic Impact panel for Murray-Darling

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin, welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister for Water Resources, David Littleproud, regarding the creation of an independent panel to investigate the social and economic conditions affecting communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Panel members include an impressive array of independent experts with extensive agriculture, regional and rural backgrounds, including Chairperson Robbie Sefton, Dr Deborah Peterson, Rene Woods, Andrew Kassebaum, David McKenzie, and Bruce Simpson.

"We are extremely pleased with the announcement by the Minister for Water Resources. This is a very strong panel, with an exceptional cross-section of expertise and lived experience of the strengths and challenges of the plan," CEO Emma Bradbury said.

"This is a very positive step towards recognising the importance of local knowledge in Basin matters, as well as better understanding the socio-economic complexities inherent in managing our water resources."

For a healthy and sustainable future of the Murray Darling Basin, the MDA believes that the socio-economic impacts across of the many diverse communities in the Basin need to be considered and measured. We look forward to the findings developed by the independent panel, and further discussion.

Background:

[Independent panel holds first meeting on Basin socio-economic impacts \(18 June\)](#)

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017.*