



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local government tackles the big issues at 75th Annual Conference

More than 140 community leaders from across the Basin gathered in Toowoomba last month for the Murray Darling Association's 75th National Conference and Annual General Meeting.

The event's theme of *Regeneration for a Healthy Basin* brought together Australia's leading experts on the Basin's natural resources, including Deputy Inspector-General, the Commonwealth Environment Water Holder, CSIRO, Murray Darling Basin Authority and more, to discuss the Basin's toughest issues.

Cr Darren Kruse, a delegate from Mitcham Council in South Australia who attended the event, spoke about the benefits of gaining a greater understanding of Basin-wide issues at the conference.

"We need to have a common understanding of the different water issues we are all facing because without a common understanding the trust and confidence in the common Basin Plan will be sorely tested in the hard summer months to come." Cr Kruse said.

Following the presentations, the MDA's Annual General Meeting was held on day two of the conference, with numerous important motions up for discussion.

Twenty-one motions were passed by delegates, including calls for safe supplies for the Barwon-Darling, increase drought preparedness support, and calls for a Productivity Commission inquiry into the relationship between the Basin Plan, the Ag Plan and our national water infrastructure.

The conference was followed by a study tour, with delegates gaining a greater understanding of the region's most innovative farm enterprises, innovations in regional connectivity and engagement, as well as an optional tour out to Cubbie Station, Australia's largest cotton farm.

One of the conference highlights was a highly engaging and informative presentation by Murray Darling Foundation 2019 Bursary recipients Stirling East Primary School.

Several representatives from Stirling East Primary School, including teacher Annette Davis, a parent and three students attended and participated in the conference, and presented at the gala dinner.

"Conference delegates were astounded by the passion and breath of intelligent inquiry in understanding complex Basin issues demonstrated by this class, and their school," MDA Chief Executive Emma Bradbury said. "We are excited to see these young people as our future leaders.

The 76th National Conference and AGM will be held in Shepparton in August next year.

Registrations for the Murray Darling Association's 76th National Conference and Annual General Meeting will open soon, with event details to be available online at www.mda.asn.au.

For more information, contact Murray Darling Association on (03) 5480 3805.