



admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au
T (03) 5480 3805
ABN: 64 636 490 493

Level 1, 250 Anstruther St
P.O. Box 1268
Echuca, Vic 3564

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 17 March 2020

Councils gather to discuss the case for place-based change and adaptation for communities

Following a challenging start to the year, more than 30 community leaders from across the Murray-Darling Basin met last week for the 6th annual Murray Darling Association Strategic Planning workshop to collaborate on creating a stronger future for local government in the Basin.

The two-day event saw a gathering of mayors, councillors and senior executives of councils from Albury to Adelaide, Menindee to the Murray Mouth, as far afield as Balonne, Federation, Barunga West and more.

Councils discussed a range of issues, including the importance of place-based change and adaptation for local government, the role of science in dealing with big Basin issues, and how the MDA can work with local government to identify and achieve the future they want – not for the future they want back.

Day one of the workshop included presentations from and engagement with the CSIRO and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, while day two focussed on internal organisational development and planning.

“The workshop was an opportunity to discuss not only some of the challenges we are facing at the moment as local government within the Basin, but also the many opportunities that are before us, particularly if we work together and show strength in diversity and unity,” said Cr David Thurley, councillor with Albury City Council and MDA National President.

The workshop was also an opportunity for the MDA to discuss current and future projects, including the Basin Communities Leadership Project, which kicks off 26-27 May in the Lower Lakes.

“More than ever, we need strong leadership at both the local government level, and community level,” said Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury.

“The solution to meet these current challenges and harness the opportunities rests not only with government but also with communities working together to build resilience. Through education and collaboration, our communities can adapt and not only survive, but thrive.”

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*