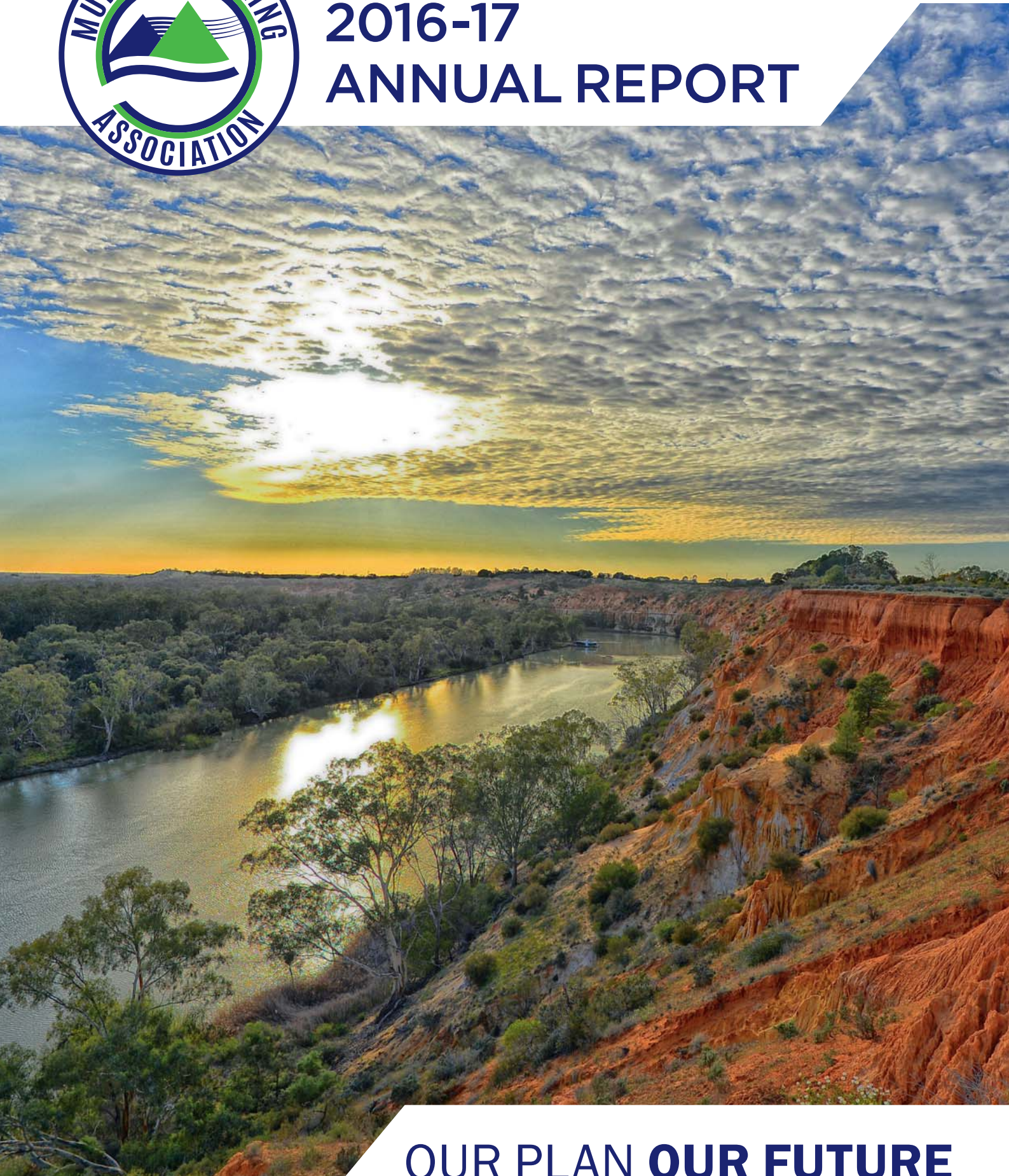




2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE



73rd annual report of the Murray Darling Association Inc: 2016-17

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

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Further copies are available from the Murray Darling Association Echuca office:
PO Box 1268
Echuca Vic 3564
03 5480 3805
admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au

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Council**



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OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE.

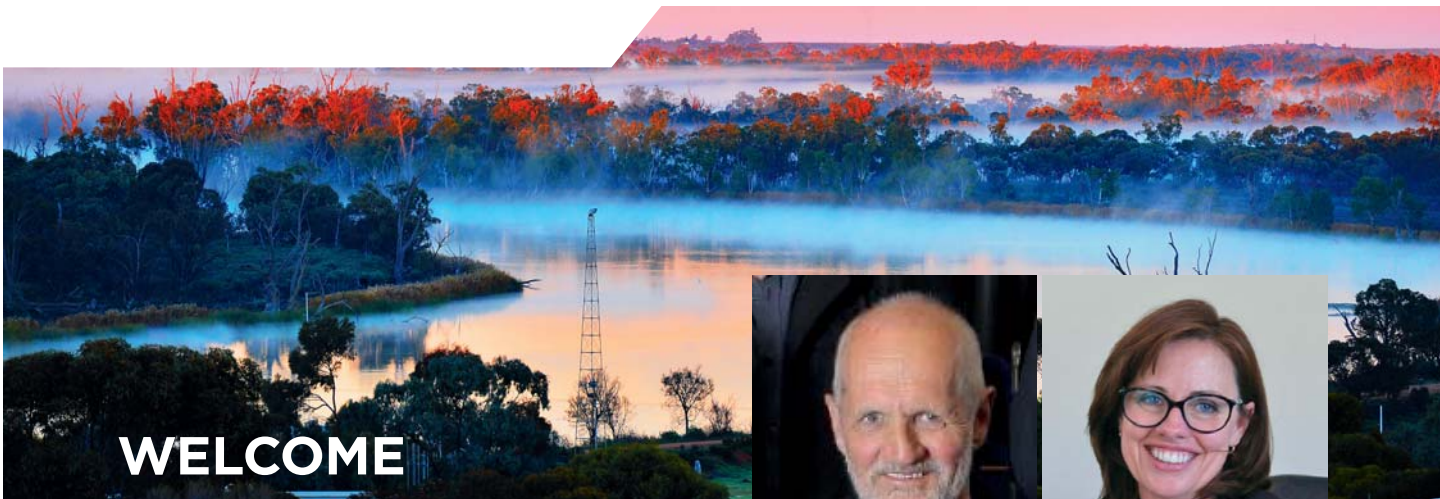
The key role of local government is to plan for the future of our local communities ensuring that our resources are managed in a responsible, and sustainable way. And there are no more important resources than those shared among the councils and communities of the Murray-Darling Basin.

We recognise that the future of our communities is in our hands. Local government, the members of the MDA and the Basin community must plan and work together with our state and federal colleagues, developing strategies, making decision, and delivering projects that provide for a strong and healthy future.

Snowy 2.0, The Basin Plan, SDL adjustments, efficiency measures and supply projects. These are all strategies, decisions and projects that must meet the needs and the expectations of our nation now and into the future. To ensure the success of these projects, local government must take an active role in the planning and sharing local knowledge.

As the third level of government in Australia and the one most directly connected and engaged with the people we represent, local government has a key role in informing **OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE.**





WELCOME

The past year has been extraordinarily busy and productive for the Murray Darling Association.

Our purpose remains staunchly focused on providing effective representation for local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by sharing information, facilitating debate and influencing government policy.

We believe it makes sense for those most affected to contribute to the formation of policy before it is irreversibly locked-in.

Local government has the technical capacity and local knowledge required to ensure the best outcomes for our Basin communities.

Our proudest traditions are steeped in planning for the futures we want for our local communities while serving the communities we have fostered. It is up to all of us to engage in the policy directions that serve us best.

The MDA is as strong and dynamic as it has ever been in its 73 year history.

We represent engaged and informed member councils, our board members apply rigorous principles of management and governance, and our stakeholders value the disciplined representation of the association.

The MDA is increasingly seen by state and federal governments and agencies as the voice of local government in the Basin.



In June we met with key MDBA and CEWO figures, along with politicians including Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to advance the case for local government to be consulted in decisions affecting Basin communities.

We again have an important role to play in the year ahead, as the Basin Plan enters another crucial phase with the delivery of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Projects and development of the Water Resource Plans.

On these matters and numerous others, the voice of local government needs to be informed, organised and articulate.

We recognise that the authority of our voice rests in the scale of our membership.

With membership approaching 100 of the 167 councils in the Basin, we recognise the need to focus on engaging all Basin councils in the year ahead, and we encourage you to invite your fellow councils to participate.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members for their tireless work in guiding and driving the organisation forward.

We also thank our member councils and private members for their enduring support of the organisation.

Cr David Thurley
National President

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer

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WHERE WE STAND

The Murray Darling Association has long been the go-to organisation for state and federal government agencies seeking input from local government and local communities on issues affecting the Basin.

This has been more evident than ever during the past 12 months. The MDA has provided input to several important reviews.

The MDA sits on several peak bodies reference groups, including the MDBA's Basin-wide Compliance Review.

The MDA has contributed to reviews of the MDBA Regional Engagement Officer Program and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and the 2017 independent analysis of Basin Plan water efficiency measures.

Local knowledge is also informing the National Carp Control Plan, with the MDA

partnering with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on stakeholder engagement.

These roles demonstrate that the voice of local government is being heard at the highest levels on a broad range of important Basin-wide issues.

MDA's success as an organisation was displayed in the lead-up to Easter 2017, when we successfully called on the MDBA to maintain the height of the Murray River during the peak holiday period, avoiding the loss of millions of dollars in tourism revenue for local communities.

In the year ahead the MDA will continue to build on our high standing with state and federal governments and agencies, achieving meaningful results for local government and the communities we serve.

ROLE OF THE REGIONS

The 12 regions of the MDA sit at the heart of the organisation's strength and ability to provide effective representation of local government on a whole-of-Basin scale.

Not only do the regions provide the platform upon which local knowledge and experience is built into a powerful instrument to inform state and federal policy, they are also the basis for forming the board, through which local knowledge is shared to build a whole-of-Basin perspective.

The board is, of course, like any council, responsible for the good governance and strategic direction of the organisation.

During the past 12 months there has been significant change at board level of the MDA, with six new members endorsed in April, meaning there has been almost complete turnover since 2013.

Again, this is not unlike the changes that can and often do occur at any given council election.

This renewal has presented its challenges, with members having worked hard to familiarise themselves with the role and to make positive contributions.

But it also presents exciting opportunities, with new ideas, skills perspectives and priorities emerging, and a renewed sense of common purpose for the MDA.

Under the constitution adopted in 2016, chairing councils must fully commit to the role, providing resources and a whole-of-council commitment to be eligible to nominate.

In turn, chairing councils provide a regional voice and profile, representing their councils and regions in advocacy, meetings and information sharing forums on the state and national stage.

Chairing councils are also tasked with encouraging the membership of all other councils in their region, urging them to share their wealth of experience and technical expertise in managing water resources.

Excitingly, all regions with the exception of northern NSW are represented at board level, and are empowered to represent the interests of all member councils.

By continuing to maintain a strong board, by building on the commitment of chairing councils and by growing membership across the Basin, the MDA can be better placed than at any time in its 73 year history to provide effective representation for local government and communities in the management of Basin water resources at the state and federal level.



REGIONS OF THE MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION



Region 4 representatives, from left: Cr Tim Elstone, Gerard Jose, Emma Bradbury, Cr Glenn Milne, Peter Kozlowski, Jason Modica, Darriea Turley, Jane MacAllister and Melisa Hederics.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE MDA

Cr Darriea Turley is the Mayor of Broken Hill City Council, which is the chairing council for region 4 of the Murray Darling Association.

Darling Association.

As the elected representative for the chairing council, Cr Turley serves as the chair of region 4 and has the distinction of being the only female on the MDA board.

A passionate and well-informed local government representative, Cr Turley has extensive knowledge of water policy and is experienced in managing the direct impact on her local and neighbouring communities.

Cr Turley's appointment to the board in April this year followed extensive consultation within her council, culminating in a firm commitment by Broken Hill City Council to take on a leadership role within the region, and in the MDA.

Cr Turley is supported in the role by Broken Hill City Council General Manager James Roncon, with council staff also involved in the preparation of meetings, reports and briefings.

The whole-of-council commitment ensures the member councils of region 4, covering the northern reaches of the Darling River through the Menindee Lakes and down to Mildura, are well represented and that their



views and issues can inform and contribute to policy development at the state and federal level.

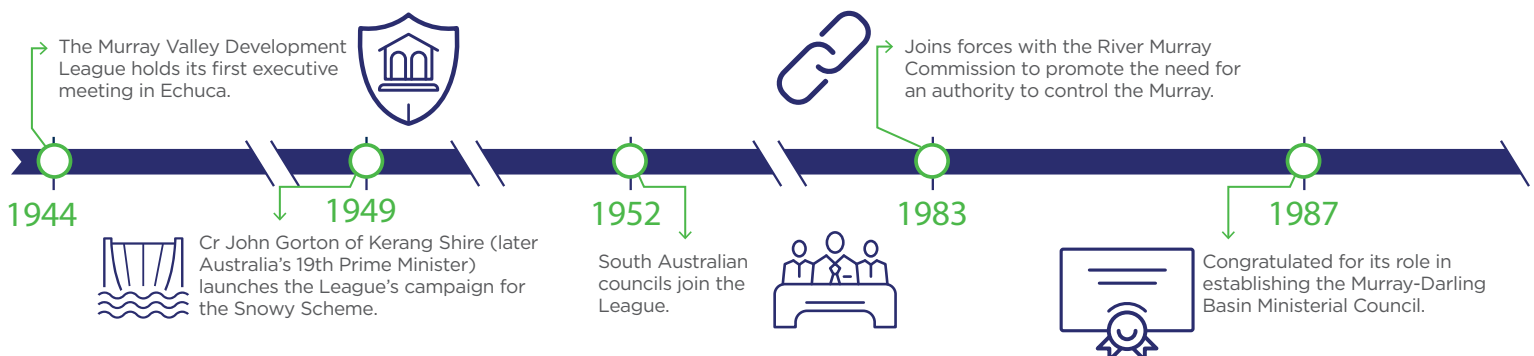
As a result of hard work by Cr Turley and her council, region 4 is a productive and engaged region, motivated to provide effective representation and to achieve tangible results for its communities.

Of particular interest, are projects including the Wentworth to Broken Hill pipeline and the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Project proposed for the Menindee Lakes.

With a united voice, the region has called for a moratorium on the pipeline while investigations are undertaken into water compliance matters in the Northern Basin.

The region is also seeking more information from the state government and the MDBA about the Menindee Supply Measures Package and what it will mean for the Lakes and the Lower Darling.

The region is also committed to developing a shared understanding of the issues that affect other regions and has recently initiated an exchange visit between the councils of region 4 on the Darling and region 6 on the Coorong, to occur later in 2017.





BUILDING GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE: THE RIGHT SKILLS MIX

In 2014, the MDA embarked on an extraordinary process to overhaul its constitution and update its board structure. With significant change to the board, it was important to focus on governance as a team activity, and ensure the right mix of skills on the board.

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

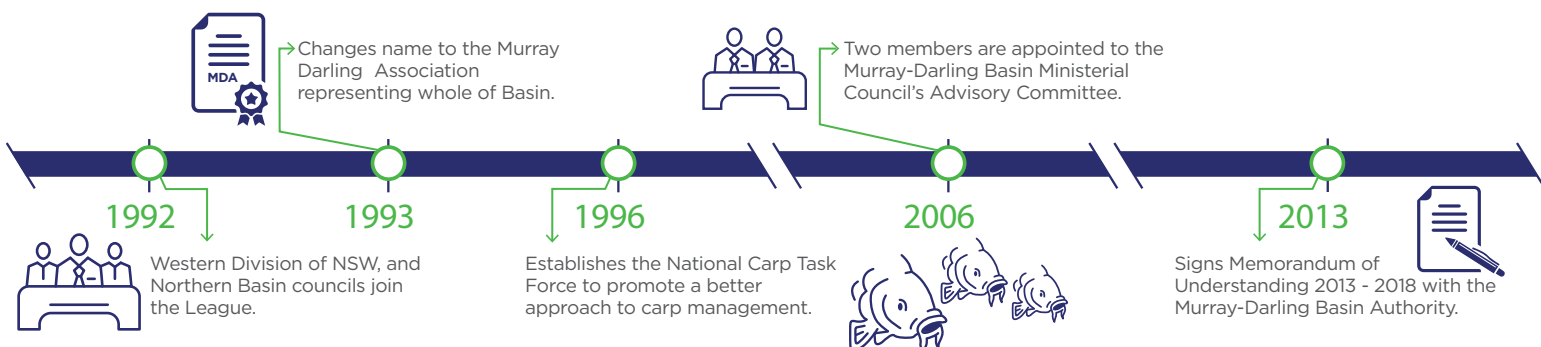
Mr George's appointment to the MDA Board as a skills-based treasurer is allowed under Part 4 s8(3) of the 2016 Constitution, and sees the association's continuing commitment to sound governance, with the composition of the board viewed as a strategic asset to the association.

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

He brings a wealth of energy and experience, and a commitment to the principles and purpose of the MDA.

Peter's contribution at board level will be key to the development of a strong and sustainable financial strategy for the association.

As with so much of the incredibly valuable professional and technical expertise that is contributed to the MDA, Peter's time and skills are generously provided for the benefit of our Basin communities.



A NEW ERA

The appointment of a skills-based treasurer comes at an ideal time for the MDA, as we continue our journey towards a more robust and sustainable financial model.

Membership fees to the MDA are extremely modest, especially when compared with the cost of membership to other regional and state peak bodies.

But through member councils' economies of scale, and drawing on the expertise that already exists within local government, the MDA can achieve high-level efficacy and profile for its members.

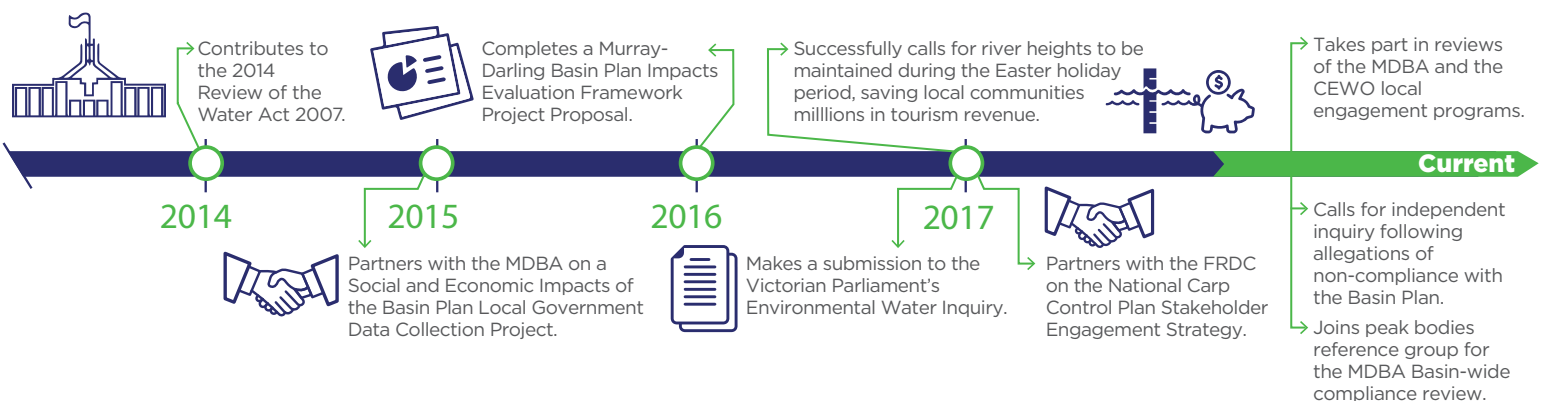
Currently an exceptionally lean and focused organisation that puts every dollar to good use, the MDA and its member councils recognise that as capacity and expectations of the MDA grows, so must its revenue base.

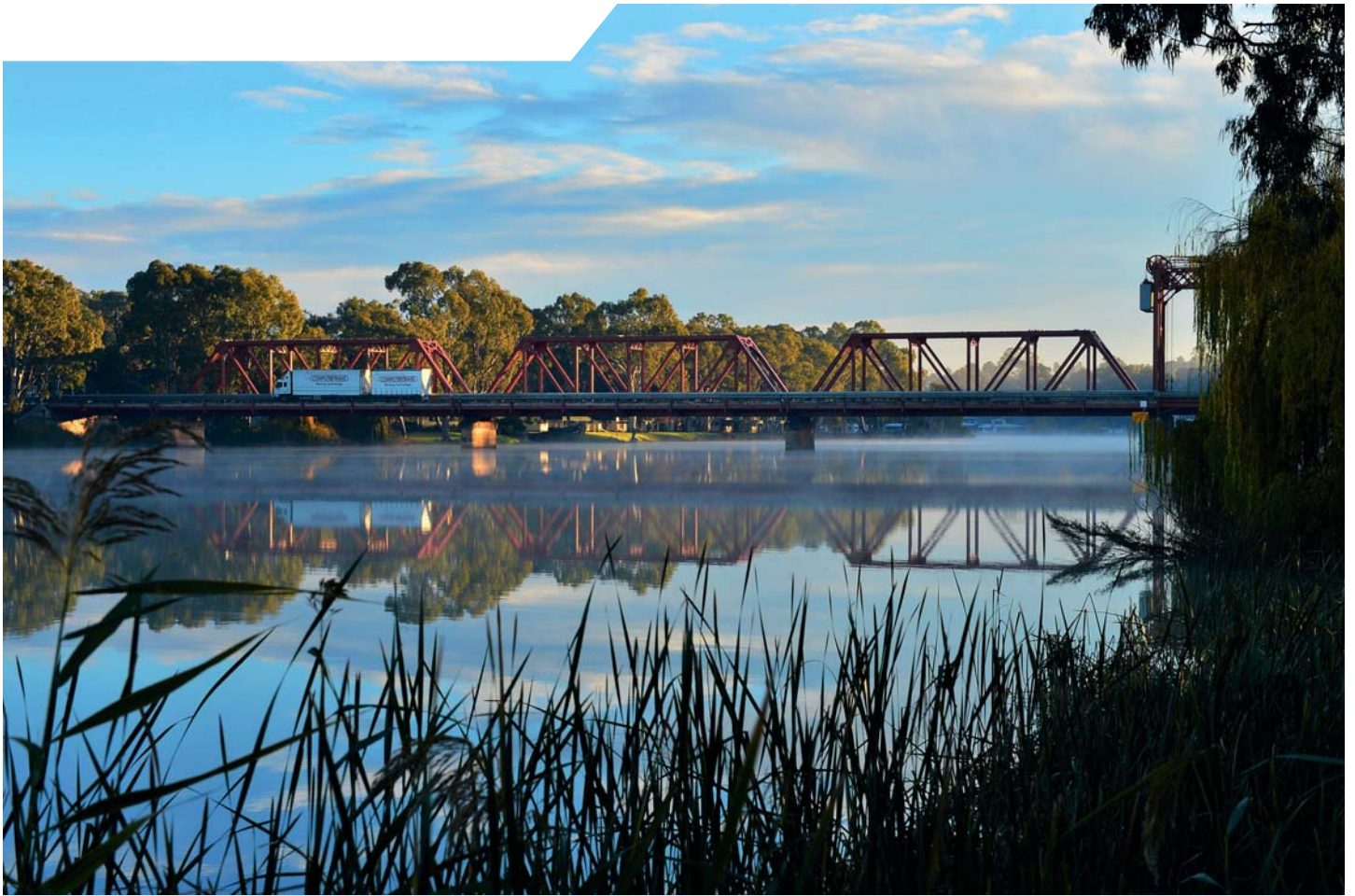
The board and members of the MDA will continue to work on developing a financial strategy that will ensure the association's long-term performance and financial sustainability.



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SHARING THE VISION OF A HEALTHY MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

Through the prism of local government, we all aspire to support economic growth and development; healthy, happy, vibrant people; and a sustainable natural and built environment.

How we achieve that aspiration will vary from council to council, region to region, state to state.

We recognise that our regions represent the interests, issues and circumstances of a wide array of communities across a vast tract of the Australian continent.

The councils of the MDA work together to better understand the unique issues that define, challenge and shape our regions.

In the year ahead, our regions will continue this work to develop regional strategic plans and advocacy priorities that will help inform policy and achieve shared solutions.

One voice representing local government and communities on basin-related issues

Why should your council join?



A powerful voice.

Be part of a collective voice advocating for councils and communities in the Basin.



Ensure your voice is heard.

Inform water policy at regional, state and federal level.



Support existing alliances.

To advocate on regional priorities.



Informed decision making.

Ensure your expertise and knowledge plays a part in the decisions affecting you.



Shape the future.

Be a part of creating the future we want for our Basin communities.

“If the MDA didn’t exist, we’d have to invent it.”

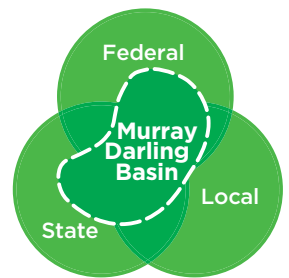
Hon Craig Knowles,
Chairman Murray-Darling Basin Authority (2011-2015), Forbes 2014



Working together with 3 levels of Government to deliver the Basin Plan.

MDA is the only peak body that provides a ‘parliament’ of local government on Basin related issues. MDA works with:

- Local Government NSW • Local Government SA • Local Government Qld
- Municipal Association of Victoria • Australian Local Government Association



“History is made by those who show up.”

Benjamin Disraeli
(British PM 1868-1880)



How can my council inform public policy?

Your council has direct influence.

- Regions meet quarterly.
- Region chairs meet monthly sharing knowledge for a whole of Basin perspective.
- Annual national conference.
- Peak representation at state and federal parliamentary and agency levels.
- 2-way information sharing.
- Secure council centric voting entitlements

Strength in numbers.

Peak body for local government across the Murray Darling Basin.

COUNCILS OF THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

REGION ONE Chair Albury City Council, Cr David Thurley

Albury City Council	Baw Baw Shire Council	Snowy Valleys Council
Federation Council	Benalla Rural City Council	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Indigo Shire Council	East Gippsland Shire Council	Wangaratta Rural City Council
Towong Shire Council	Greater Hume Shire Council	Wodonga City Council
Alpine Shire Council	Mansfield Shire Council	

REGION TWO Chair Moira Shire Council, Cr Peter Mansfield

Berrigan Shire Council	Greater Bendigo City Council	Strathbogie Shire Council
Campaspe Shire Council	Greater Shepparton City Council	Whittlesea City Council
Murray River Council	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Moira Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council	
Edward River Council	Murrindindi Shire Council	

REGION THREE Chair Balranald Shire Council, Cr Leigh Byron

Gannawarra Shire Council	Buloke Shire Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Loddon Shire Council	Central Goldfields Shire Council	Northern Grampians Shire
Ararat Rural City Council	Hepburn Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council
Ballarat City Council	Horsham Rural City Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Balranald Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Council	

REGION FOUR Chair Broken Hill City Council, Cr Darriea Turley

Broken Hill City Council	Wentworth Shire Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council
Central Darling Shire	Hindmarsh Shire Council	
Mildura Rural City Council	West Wimmera Shire Council	

REGION FIVE Chair Renmark Paringa Council, Cr Peter Hunter

District Council of Loxton	Mid Murray Council	District Council of Karoonda
Waikerie	Berri Barmera Council	East Murray
Renmark Paringa Council		

REGION SIX Chair Alexandrina Council, Cr Barry Featherston

Alexandrina Council	The Rural City of Murray Bridge	Southern Mallee District Council
Coorong District Council	City of Victor Harbour	
Tatiara District Council	Kingston District Council	

REGION SEVEN Chair Town of Walkerville, Cr David Shetliffe

Campbelltown City Council	Adelaide City Council	City of Tea Tree Gully
City of Burnside	City of Charles Sturt	City of Unley
City of Holdfast Bay	City of Marion	District Council of Yankalilla
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	City of Mitcham	The District Council of Mount Barker
City of Playford	City of Onkaparinga	Town of Gawler
City of West Torrens	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	
Town of Walkerville	City of Prospect	
	City of Salisbury	

REGION EIGHT Chair Northern Areas Council, Cr Denis Clark

District Council of Barunga West	The Barossa Council	Wakefield Regional Council
District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton	The District Council of Mallala	Adelaide Hills Council
District Council of Yorke Peninsula	The District Council of Mount Remarkable	Northern Areas Council
Light Regional Council	The District Council of Peterborough	Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
Port Pirie Regional Council	The Regional Council of Goyder	District Council of the Copper Coast
	Whyalla City Council	Port Augusta City Council

REGION NINE Chair Leeton Shire Council, Mayor Paul Maytom

Griffith City Council	Wagga Wagga City Council	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Hay Shire Council	Australian Capital Territory Government	Temora Shire Council
Leeton Shire Council	Bega Valley Shire Council	Weddin Shire Council
Lockhart Shire Council	Coolamon Shire Council	Yass Valley Council
Murrumbidgee Shire Council	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Hilltops Shire Council
Narrandera Shire Council	Carrathool Shire Council	
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Junee Shire Council	

REGION TEN Vacant

Bourke Shire Council	Cabonne Council	Orange City Council
Forbes Shire Council	City of Lithgow Council	Parkes Shire Council
Lachlan Shire Council	Cobar Shire Council	Singleton Shire Council
Narromine Shire Council	Cowra Shire Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Warren Shire Council	Gilgandra Shire Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Bathurst Regional Council	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Bogan Shire Council	Mid-Western Regional Council	Wellington Shire
Bland Shire Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council	Western Plains Regional Council
Blayney Shire Council	Oberon Council	

REGION ELEVEN Vacant

Brewarrina Shire Council	Glen Innes Severn Council	Tamworth Regional Council
Coonamble Shire Council	Gunnedah Shire Council	Tenterfield Shire Council
Gwydir Shire Council	Guyra Shire Council	Uralla Shire Council
Moree Plains Shire Council	Inverell Shire Council	Walcha Council
Walgett Shire Council	Liverpool Plains Shire	
Armidale Dumaresq Council	Narrabri Shire Council	

REGION TWELVE Chair Balonne Shire Council, Cr Richard Marsh

Paroo Shire Council	Bulloo Shire Council	Murweh Shire Council
Southern Downs Regional Council	Central Highlands Regional Council	Quilpie Shire Council
Toowoomba Regional Council	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Scenic Rim Regional Council
Balonne Shire Council	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	South Burnett Regional Council
Blackall Tambo Regional Council	Maranoa Regional Council	Western Downs Regional Council

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Graham Camac	Meningie SA
Mr Max Moor	Barmah NSW
Ms Pauline Frost	Adelaide SA
Mr Phillip Moore	Melbourne Vic
Mr Don Oberin	Echuca Vic
Mr Les Hill	Berri SA
Mr Brian J Grogan	OAM Mildura Vic
Mr Ken Rogers	Dubbo City NSW
Dr Terry Hillman AM	Lavington NSW
Mr Phillip Potter	Narooma NSW
Mr Jim Hullick OAM	Adelaide SA
Mr Wulf Reichler	Brewarrina NSW
Mr Jack James Larkin OAM	Spring Gully Qld
Mr J Bede Mecham	Wagga Wagga NSW
Mr Kevin Pell OAM	Nathalia Vic
Mr Bill Gorman	Mulwala NSW

PRESIDENTS

DG Padman	Albury City Council	1944-5
JG Strangman	District Council of Waikerie	1952-56
Henry Lester Smith OBE	Gannawarra Shire Council	1956-60
E Verco Whyte	Wentworth Shire Council	1960-65
Robert S Rankin OBE	Shire of Campaspe	1965-68
Tom E Pearsall	Albury City Council	1968-71
Paul Gerard Schmidt	District Council of Mannum	1971-74
Jim W Gemmell	Moira Shire Council	1974-77
Jack J Larkin OAM	Swan Hill Shire	1977-82
Don K Oberin	Shire of Campaspe	1982-86
Jim M Hullick OAM	Adelaide City Council	1986-89
Graham C Camac	Coorong District Council	1989-92
Max Moor	Moira Shire Council	1992-98
Ray Trestrail	Albury City Council	1998-2000
Brian Sharp OAM	Shire of Murray	2000-03
Brian J Grogan OAM	Mildura Rural Council	2003-06
Bill Gorman	Corowa Shire Council	2006-09
Ken Rogers	Dubbo City Council	2009-13
Cr Greg Toll	Shire of Campaspe	2013-15
Cr David Thurley	Albury City Council	2015-

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1	1945	Albury NSW
2	1946	Shepparton Vic
3	1947	Murray Bridge SA
4	1948	Swan Hill Vic
5	1949	Wentworth NSW
6	1950	Berri SA
7	1951	Corowa NSW
8	1952	Victor Harbor
9	1953	Albury NSW
10	1954	Mildura Vic
11	1955	Kerang Vic
12	1956	Melbourne Vic
13	1957	Barmera SA
14	1958	Deniliquin NSW
15	1959	Mt Beauty Vic
16	1960	Renmark SA
17	1961	Swan Hill Vic
18	1962	Albury NSW
19	1963	Victor Harbor SA
20	1964	Mildura Vic
21	1965	Yarrawonga Vic
22	1966	Adelaide SA
23	1967	Shepparton Vic
24	1968	Deniliquin NSW
25	1969	Waikerie SA

26	1970	Mildura Vic
27	1971	Kerang Vic
28	1972	Murray Bridge SA
29	1973	Echuca Vic
30	1974	Corowa NSW
31	1975	Loxton SA
32	1976	Wodonga Vic
33	1977	Camberwell Vic
34	1978	Swan Hill Vic
35	1979	Berri SA
36	1980	Deniliquin NSW
37	1981	Wentworth NSW
38	1982	Murray Bridge SA
39	1983	Echuca Vic
40	1984	Adelaide SA
41	1985	Jerilderie
42	1986	Mildura Vic
43	1987	Albury NSW
44	1988	Renmark SA
45	1989	Barham NSW
46	1990	Murray Bridge SA
47	1991	Cobram Vic
48	1992	Whyalla SA
49	1993	Wentworth NSW
50	1994	Yarrawonga Vic

51	1995	Broken Hill NSW
52	1996	Barmera SA
53	1997	Swan Hill Vic
54	1998	Strathalbyn SA
55	1999	Moama NSW
56	2000	Brewarrina NSW
57	2001	Buronga NSW
58	2002	Whyalla SA
59	2003	Corowa NSW
60	2004	Renmark SA
61	2005	Dubbo NSW
62	2006	Barham NSW
63	2007	Bourke NSW
64	2008	Leeton NSW
65	2009	Elizabeth SA
66	2010	Beechworth Vic
67	2011	Dalby Qld
68	2012	Mildura Vic
69	2013	Goolwa SA
70	2014	Tumut NSW
71	2015	Berrigan NSW
72	2016	Dubbo NSW
73	2017	Renmark SA

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Your Committee members submit the financial report of Murray Darling Association Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Position	Council	Name	Commenced
National President	Albury City Council	Cr David Thurley	
Vice President	Alexandrina Shire Council	Cr Barry Featherston	
Treasurer	M&S Accounting	Peter George	21 April 2017
Chair Region 1	Albury City Council	Cr David Thurley	
Chair Region 2	Moira Shire Council	Cr Peter Mansfield	21 April 2017
Chair Region 3	Balranald Shire Council	Cr Leigh Byron	
Chair Region 4	Broken Hill City Council	Cr Darriea Turley	21 April 2017
Chair Region 5	Renmark Paringa Council	Cr Peter Hunter	21 April 2017
Chair Region 6	Alexandrina Shire Council	Cr Barry Featherston	
Chair Region 7	Walkerville Town Council	Cr David Shetliffe	21 April 2017
Chair Region 8	Northern Areas Council	Cr Denis Clark	21 April 2017
Chair Region 9	Leeton Shire Council	Cr Paul Maytom	
Chair Region 10	Vacant	Vacant	
Chair Region 11	Vacant	Vacant	
Chair Region 12	Balonne Shire Council	Cr Richard Marsh	21 April 2017
			Retired
Treasurer	Port Adelaide Enfield Council	Cr Peter Jamieson	February 2017
Chair Region 2	Deniliquin Council	Des Bilske	January 2017
Chair Region 5	Mid-Murray Council	Cr Kevin Myers	September 2016

PUBLIC OFFICER

Emma Bradbury Public Officer

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial year 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 year.

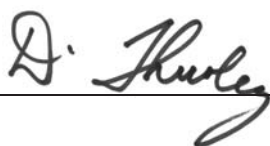
OPERATING RESULT

The surplus / (loss) after providing for income tax for the financial year amounted to \$20,453 - [2016 (\$16,055)]

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: 22nd September 2017

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
INCOME			
Conference Income		37,954	42,987
Income - Memberships	2	199,057	194,680
Income - Projects		4,323	7,731
Income From Fundraising Events		27	9,334
Interest Income	3	685	1,732
Other Income	4	5,738	7,179
Total Income		247,784	263,643
EXPENDITURE			
Depreciation			
Depreciation - Low Value Pool		448	225
Depreciation - Motor Vehicle		5,560	7,414
Depreciation - Office Equipment		883	566
Total Depreciation		6,891	8,205
Motor Vehicles			
Motor Vehicle Insurance		804	1,149
Fuel Expenses		3,489	2,721
Motor Vehicle Maintenance		1,442	518
Motor Vehicle Registration		643	600
Total Motor Vehicles		6,378	4,989
Advertising & Marketing		5,743	9,807
Bank Fees		408	528
Borrowing Expenses		469	629
Business Insurance		934	1,210
Computer Expenses		3,201	4,550
Conference Expenses		14,638	21,959
Consultancy Fees		-	3,819
Entertainment (Meal)		-	1,039
Fringe Benefits Tax		151	2,356
General Repairs & Maintenance		109	209
Interest Expense		1,838	2,422
Legal Costs		-	560
Licences and Subscriptions		187	105
Low Cost Asset (write off)		-	513
MDF Project Direct Expenses		1,060	-
Meeting Expense		1,201	4,376
Other Payroll Expenses	5	9,152	(23,093)
Postage		1,056	1,300
Premises Rent - Albury		706	4,762
Premises Rent - Echuca		15,000	15,000
Printing		1,519	4,375
Pro Indemnity Insurance		818	818
Professional Fees	6	11,073	13,636
Public Liability Insurance		659	659
Staff Amenities		126	230
Staff Training Expenses		500	1,377
Stationery		443	2,443
Superannuation		10,727	10,412
Telephone Expenses		4,823	7,792
Travel & Accom. Expenses		8,854	6,614
Uniforms		286	73
Wages & Salaries Expenses		116,983	161,183
Water Expenses		750	716
Work Cover Premiums		648	4,128
Total Expenditure		227,331	279,698
NET OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		20,453	(16,055)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

Account	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand	7	118,304	89,602
Accounts Receivable and other Debtors	8	5,644	4,987
Other Current Assets	9	500	212
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		124,448	94,801
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial Assets	10	169,100	166,600
Property, plant and equipment	11	25,178	30,746
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		194,278	197,346
TOTAL ASSETS		318,726	292,147
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	12	6,757	32,286
Borrowings	13	3,308	3,308
Provisions	14	13,855	6,193
Other	15	72,262	44,241
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		96,182	86,028
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	13	3,895	10,423
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,895	10,423
TOTAL LIABILITIES		100,077	96,451
NET ASSETS		218,649	195,696
MEMBER'S FUNDS			
Capital Reserve			
Reserves		64,172	61,673
Retained Earnings		154,477	134,023
TOTAL MEMBER'S FUNDS		218,649	195,696

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2015	150,078	39,123	189,201
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Profit (Loss) for the Year	(16,055)	-	(16,055)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(16,055)	-	(16,055)
OTHER			
REVALUATIONS		22,550	22,550
TOTAL OTHER		22,550	22,550
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2016	134,023	61,673	195,696
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2016	134,023	61,673	195,696
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Profit (Loss) for the Year	20,453		20,453
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	20,453	-	20,453
OTHER REVALUATIONS	2,500		2,500
TOTAL OTHER		2,500	2,500
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2017	154,476	64,173	218,649

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Other Receipts		312,221	293,198
Interest Received		685	1,732
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(278,191)	(418,221)
Interest Paid		(1,838)	(629)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	20b	32,877	(123,920)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of Property, plant and equipment		2,823	(2,997)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		2,823	(2,997)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Borrowing Repayments		(6,998)	(4,308)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(6,998)	(4,308)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		28,702	(131,225)
Cash on Hand at beginning of the Financial Year		89,602	220,827
Cash on Hand at End of Financial Year	20a	118,304	89,602

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

NOTES OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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.

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.

NOTES CONTINUED

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.

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.

NOTES CONTINUED

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
2. MEMBERSHIPS		
Memberships	199,057	194,680
3. INTEREST INCOME		
Interest Received	685	1,732
4. OTHER INCOME		
Proceeds from Insurance Policies	-	1,048
Sundry Income	5,594	6,066
Expense Reimbursement	144	65
	5,738	7,179
5. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS		
Annual Leave	9,152	(8,171)
Long Service Leave	-	(14,922)
	9,152	(23,093)
6. PROFESSIONAL FEES		
Accounting Fees	1,950	1,950
Audit Fees	9,123	11,686
	11,073	13,636
7. CASH ON HAND		
Petty Cash	-	200
Cash At Bank	118,304	89,402
	118,304	89,602
8. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND OTHER DEBTORS		
Trade Debtors	1,532	-
Goods and Services Tax	4,112	4,987
	5,644	4,987
9. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Accrued Income	-	212
Prepayments	500	-
	500	212

NOTES CONTINUED

		2017 \$	2016 \$
10. FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Available for sale financial assets	(a)	169,100	166,600
		<u>169,100</u>	<u>166,600</u>
(a) Available for sale financial assets:			
Investments:			
High Security Water Shares		169,100	166,600
11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Motor Vehicles		34,718	34,718
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(18,037)	(12,478)
		<u>16,681</u>	<u>22,240</u>
Office Furniture and Equipment		4,798	7,622
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(2,048)	(5,311)
		<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,311</u>
Low Value Pool		1,761	1,761
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(1,014)	(566)
		<u>747</u>	<u>1,195</u>
Artwork		5,000	5,000
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		<u>25,178</u>	<u>30,746</u>
12. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES			
Sundry Creditors		-	3,390
Trade Creditors		845	5,929
Other Creditors		-	21,543
Tax Payable		5,912	1,424
		<u>6,757</u>	<u>32,286</u>
13. BORROWINGS			
Current			
Hire Purchase Liability		3,998	3,998
Less Unexpired Hire Purchase Liability		(690)	(690)
		<u>3,308</u>	<u>3,308</u>
Non-Current			
Debenture Loans		1,500	4,500
Hire Purchase Liability		2,690	5,997
Less Unexpired Hire Purchase Liability		(295)	(74)
		<u>3,895</u>	<u>10,423</u>
		<u>7,203</u>	<u>13,731</u>

NOTES CONTINUED

	2017 \$	2016 \$
14. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	10,911	4,198
Provision for Long Service Leave	-	-
Superannuation Liability	2,944	1,995
	<u>13,855</u>	<u>6,193</u>
Provision for Annual Leave		
Opening Balance 1 July 2016	4,198	
Additional Provisions Raised	9,152	
Amounts Taken	(2,439)	
Balance at 30 June 2017	<u>10,911</u>	
Provision for Long Service Leave		
Opening Balance 1 July 2016	-	
Additional Provisions Raised	-	
Amounts Taken	-	
Balance at 30 June 2017	<u>-</u>	
Total Provisions		
Opening Balance 1 July 2016	4,198	
Additional Provisions Raised	9,152	
Amounts Taken	(2,439)	
Superannuation Liability	2,944	
Balance at 30 June 2017	<u>13,855</u>	
15. OTHER LIABILITIES		
Accrued Charges	7,826	8,231
Income in Advance	64,436	36,010
	<u>72,262</u>	<u>44,241</u>
16. RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
The asset revaluation reserve records revaluations of non-current assets. Under certain circumstances dividends can be declared from this reserve.		
17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS		
There are no commitments as at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$Nil)		
18. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS		
There are no Contingent Liabilities at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$Nil). There are no Contingent Assets at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$Nil).		

NOTES CONTINUED

19. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Since 30 June 2017, there have been no events that would materially affect the Financial Statements at Balance Date.

20. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2017 \$	2016 \$
(a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash on Hand at the end of the financial year as included in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash	-	200
Cash at Bank	118,304	89,402
	<u>118,304</u>	<u>89,602</u>
(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with net current year profit		
Current year profit after income tax	20,454	(16,055)
Cash flows excluded from current year profit:		
Depreciation Expense	6,891	8,205
Impairment Loss / (Gain) on Fixed Assets	5,323	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	657	4,633
(Increase) / Decrease in Prepayments	(500)	-
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	(4,666)	(84,917)
Increase / (Decrease) in Provisions	4,718	(35,786)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>32,877</u>	<u>(123,920)</u>

MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year 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: 22nd September 2017

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

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Murray Darling Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, 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 statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility 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 and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls 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; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

Head Office

Other Offices

Partners

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Murray Darling Association Inc is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and complying with the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009.



Warren Pollock
MGR ACCOUNTANTS
mgr@mgr.com.au

22 September 2017

The Murray Darling Association thanks our valued partners, and sponsors of the 73rd National Conference.



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OUR PLAN OUR FUTURE

