



Chief Executive Officer's Report

February 2020

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1. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
20/01/2020	Board Meeting 394	
20/01/2020	Meeting with Chris Bilkey – Mayor Murray Rivers Council	Echuca
21/01/2020	Malcolm Thompson – Discussions MDBA Chair	Telephone
23/01/2020	Town Hall Session with the Inspector General	Deniliquin
24/01/2020	Regional Diversification discussions – Brewarrina	Via Zoom
28/01/2020	Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
29/01/2020	National Indigenous Australian Agency	Echuca
29/01/2020	Region 4 Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom
30/01/2020	Regional Diversification discussions – Wentworth	Via Zoom
30/01/2020	Regional Diversification discussions – Shepparton	Via Zoom
04/02/2020	Celine Steinfield - Wentworth Group – MDBA Roundtable	Via Zoom
05/02/2020	BCLP Discussions: Paul Childs, Jarrod Eaton and Iain Ellis	Via Zoom
06/02/2020	Mike Stewardson – One Basin CRC discussions	Telephone
07/02/2020	Angus Mackie – Minister Pavey's Office	Via Zoom
10/02/2020	Adam O'Bied Advisor to Water Minister Anthony Lynham QLD	Telephone
10/02/2020	MDB roundtable discussions	Via Zoom
11/02/2020	Regional diversification discussions – Moree Regional Council	Via Zoom
13/02/2020	76 th National Conference Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
14/02/2020	Region 6 – AGM and Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom

2. Basin Communities Leadership Project – BCLP

Project Stages / Current status:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Stage 1) | Program Design and Development | <i>[Underway – Progressing]</i> |
| • Stage 1a) | Participant / Candidate Recruitment | <i>[Underway – Progressing]</i> |
| • Stage 2) | Leadership Program Delivery | <i>[Awaiting completion of stage 1 / 1a]</i> |
| • Stage 3) | Community Project Delivery Support | <i>[Awaiting completion of stage 2]</i> |
| • Stage 4) | Consolidation / Refurbishment / OILLS | <i>[Awaiting completion of stage 3]</i> |

Progress Comments:

- A mature advertising and recruitment campaign has commenced with applications being made.
- Coordination of the venue bookings and support arrangements are underway.
- Some Councils have responded with their support – following up with those who have not yet responded.
- Training / Business Support Officer recruitment due FEB / MAR.

Risks / Opportunities:

- Risks – successfully aligning all the guest presenters and support networks to synchronise / support dates across the 15 x locations.
- Risks – external support arrangements and requested materials / services meeting project timelines.

3. Discussions with Angus Mackie – Minister Pavey’s Office

- Invitation extended to Minister Pavey to attend the next Region 10 Meeting in late February.
- The MDA invited the Minister to support the funding application for the Regional Economic Diversification program
- The MDA notified the Department that the Board considered Minister Pavey’s request that we facilitate or host community level meetings with key councils and community leaders across South Australia. Board recommended that the Minister establish a joint approach with Minister Spiers, and that the MDA would be pleased to identify key personnel and community leaders.
- The MDA also enquired as to what the NSW Department is asking of Queensland in relation to the “First Flush Flows”.

4. Discussions with Adam O’Bied – Advisor – Minister Anthony Lynham Water Minister for QLD

- Adam O’Bied will be emailing a zoom calendar invite to discuss preparations of the written response to the letter sent to the Minister in relation to National Water Infrastructure – feasibility investment
- The MDA also discussed NSW section 324 orders and whether QLD have the same.

5. Memberships

The MDA have reached out to the [Cowra Council](#) to investigate the Council’s position in their consideration of joining the MDA as members.

A presentation to Council was conducted by Cr Phyllis Miller (R10) Chair and CEO.

Paul Devery has advised that a report to the Council will be completed by the end of the month

6. 2020 76th National Conference – Shepparton – Victoria

Venues have been secured for the [Conference](#) and [Gala Dinner Event](#).

Logistics for the Study Tour to Barmah are currently underway with the committee meeting monthly to further discuss such topics as Theme, Presenters, sponsors and exhibitors.

7. ONE Basin Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Roadshow

The ONE Basin CRC is a focused collaboration bid to develop policy, technical and financial solutions that support Basin communities, business and governments to understand and reduce their exposure to climate, water and environmental threats. The Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and the community.

8. Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

The MDB Roundtable presents an opportunity for communities, businesses and scientists to come together to address the serious water problems. Options for addressing many of the immediate and long-term water security and river health challenges, with fundamental actions could be readily implemented with widespread benefits.

9. First Nation Peoples


The MDA reached out to the newly formed National Indigenous Australian Agency based in Shepparton to establish and re-connect with the local Indigenous groups in the region.

NIAA, previously known as the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Indigenous Affairs group, welcomed the MDA executive and have subsequently provided contact details for the Yorta Yorta Nations, as well as names to assist with the logistical preparations for the 2020 76th National Conference.

NIAA, have indicated their support of the BCLP program and will disseminate details and correspondences throughout their networks.

10. Employee Entitlements

The future cost to the MDA of employee entitlements is increasing steadily. A separate bank account has been initiated to hold all accrued entitlements. The account “Employee Entitlements” will be managed in accordance with standard practices.


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