

# MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION INC.

## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION



The Murray Darling Association was founded in August 1944 as the Murray Valley Development League, with the aim of promoting inland development and decentralisation and encouraging communities to 'be conscious of their common heritage, the Murray River'. The league was pivotal in ensuring the completion of the Snowy Scheme and from the beginning worked towards improving and promoting the health and viability of the Murray-Darling Basin catchment and the communities within it.

Changing our name to Murray Darling Association in 1993, we have been for many years an active association representing a broad membership of local government municipalities, community groups, businesses, individuals and agencies in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria with an interest in ensuring the Murray Darling Basin continues as a viable and valuable asset for all Australians.

**"The Association is an important forum to consider basin issues from a holistic perspective. It is a great networking opportunity which allows all stakeholders to share information and experience, debate topics, and learn from each other. The Association also provides an avenue to have a strong voice and input into policy making."**

FRANK ZAKNICH - GENERAL MANAGER  
ALBURY CITY COUNCIL  
— MEMBERS SINCE 1944

Providing a forum for Local Government and community participation in major natural resource and policy issues affecting the Murray-Darling Basin, we represent communities that rely on water from the Basin by providing information, facilitating debate, identifying needs and priorities, undertaking projects and education initiatives, and informing policy at local, state and federal level.

Since 1944, the Association has contributed to water conservation, decentralisation, tourism, the Snowy Scheme, catchment management, water quality, education and regional development formation.

The Murray Darling Association is a representative organisation with regions aligned by communities of interest, views, aspiration and concerns of a large number of people living in the Murray-Darling Basin, regardless of state boundaries.

### Our Mission:

**To ensure that the natural resources of the Murray-Darling Basin remain as valued assets for all Australians.**

### ACHIEVING OUR MISSION

The association will achieve our mission by providing natural resource management information; facilitating debate and community engagement; identifying needs and priorities; initiating and undertaking projects and education initiatives; promoting research; and working to influence natural resource management policies of governments as they relate to the Murray-Darling Basin.

# ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION CONT.

## AS AN ASSOCIATION WE SEEK TO:

- Encourage responsible social and economic development while ensuring balanced management of the natural environment;
- Foster the involvement of local government in natural resource management and decision making processes within the Basin;
- Provide leadership and a direction to achieve basin wide solutions to local issues;
- Believe that Local Government is central to the effective management of the Basin;
- Ensure that the environmental integrity of the Murray-Darling Basin is conserved and protected; and
- Deliver value to our members through exemplary practice in governance and public participation.

“Greater Shepparton City Council recently formalised our support for the association. As Greater Shepparton forms part Australia’s food bowl it is imperative for us to participate. Forming a partnership with the MDA will strengthen our position when lobbying state and federal government on matters affecting our region and improve outcomes in the management of our natural resources.”

CR DENNIS PATTERSON - MAYOR  
GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL  
— MEMBERS SINCE 2015

## THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Strong united voice at regional, state and federal level on important basin related issues.
- Networking opportunities with other LGAs.
- Opportunity to discuss water related issues with other delegates who have Water/Environment as part of their portfolio.
- Cross boundary communication between South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.
- Benefit of long history and knowledge accumulated over 71 years.
- Good regional structure bringing ideas and issues from a very broad area to a central space.

## OUR REGIONS

“If the Murray Darling Association didn’t already exist, I would have to invent it.”

THE HON CRAIG KNOWLES  
MDBA CHAIR (2011-2015)

The Murray Darling Association has 12 distinct regions. Regions are determined by communities of similar interests and are not reliant on state boundaries. Regional members meet regularly to consider matters of regional significance, drawing on local knowledge and expertise. The chair of each region sits on the national board.