



Region 1 Ordinary Meeting MINUTES

Location: Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86364804199>

Date/time: Thursday 4th February 2021

1. Attendance

1.1 Present

Cr David Thurley - Chair
Emma Bradbury – CEO MDA
Cr David Wortman – Towong Council
Mayor Greg Conkey – Wagga Wagga City Council
Cr Bronwyn Thomas – Federation Council
Mayor Patrick Bourke – Federation Council
Cr Bernard Gaffney – Indigo shire

1.2 Apologies

Charlie Bird – CEO – Alpine Shire Council
Cr Sarah Nicholas – Alpine Shire Council
Mayor Kev Poulton – City of Wodonga

2. Welcome and Purpose

- Chair Cr. David Thurley OAM welcomed members and executives.
- Explained the Purpose of the meeting was to strategise for future planning of Region 1.
- Membership and Regional boundaries were discussed
- No formal motions were presented at the meeting

3. Region 1 - Issues pertinent to Region 1

Indigo

- Irrigation concerns – water availability
- Outstanding Connections Projects
- TO Relationships
- Presentation from GMW

Towong

- Water Quality
- Bushfire residue pollution

- Wild horse impacts
- Reliability for tourism and visitation
- Fluctuations in Lake Hume
- Hydro energy and relationship to Snowy Hydro

Wagga

- Riverina JO

Federation

- Need for ground-up identification and of and approach to local issues
- Alignment to Region 1 and Region 2 matters
- Value of cross-border approach

Albury

Cr. David Thurley

- Pest species (Horses, deer and pigs) are a big issue in the upper catchment with damage to ecological values and impacts on water quality run-off into rivers and streams. NSW legislation specifically protects the feral horses in Kosciusko National Park.
- The alignment of community events with availability of water. Perhaps councils should prepare a register of events that are based around rivers and/or rely on water in some way and forward this to MDBA so that they can try to accommodate these events with the need to deliver water
- Major projects. There is a lot of talk about major projects such as dams, renewable energy, etc. but little concrete action. Snowy Hydro 2.0 is just a word it's serious questions about viability etc. We hear about hubs generating hydrogen as a clean fuel. Needs a power source to do this so why not somewhere like Snowy Hydro.
- Somehow we need to get Councils together to talk about what MDA means to them and how it can help with the things they want to achieve. Good to get the NSW JOs but how do we engage Victorian Councils such as Wangaratta, Benalla and Wodonga.
- Need to integrate technology with R1 meetings to enable distant Councils to participate. It requires good technology, right rooms equipment etc.

4. Next meetings are scheduled for:

Friday 12th March 2021 – Meeting Albury City Council

Friday 11th June 2021

Friday 10th September 202

