



MINUTES

75th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 23rd, 2019

The Annex, Toowoomba

1. WELCOME

1.1 Welcome - National President, Cr David Thurley

Cr Thurley welcomed delegates to the 2019 AGM and declared the meeting open at 3.56pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1 Present

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cr Glen Andreazza | Griffith City Council |
| Cr Paul Antonio | Toowoomba Regional Council |
| Peter Bice | Adelaide hills Council |
| Cr Ross Bodey | Berrigan Shire Council |
| Emma Bradbury | Murray Darling Association |
| Cr Dennis Brady | Lachlan Shire Council |
| Cr Marion Browne | Broken Hill City Council |
| Cr Russell Campbell | Carrathool Shire Council |
| Cr John Campbell | Gunnedah Shire Council |
| Cr Robin Coleman | City of Tea Tree Gully |
| Cr Stephen Coppins | City of Playford |
| Cr Ed Cox | Moiria Shire Council |
| Andrew Crakanthorp | Riverina Water County Council |
| Aaron Drenovski | Goldenfields Water County Council |
| Cr Greg Evans | Wentworth Shire Council |
| Bradley Ferris | Albury City Council |
| Pauline Frost | Region 7 |
| Cr Jeff Hall | Mid Murray Council |
| Cr Shirley Halls | City of Playford |
| Cr Steve Heywood | Wentworth Shire Council |
| Cr Tracy Hill | Coorong District Council |
| Cr Barry Hollman | Bourke Shire Council |
| Cr Rob Hooke | Gunnedah Shire Council |
| Cr Peter Hunter | Renmark Paringa Council |
| Andrew Johns | Gunnedah Shire Council |

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| Cr Colin Jones | Berrigan Shire Council |
| Cr Andrew Kassebaum | Berri Barmera council |
| Jackie Kruger | Leeton Shire Council |
| Cr Darren Kruse | City of Mitcham |
| Cr Brenton Lewis | Rural City of Murray Bridge |
| Steve Loane | Forbes Shire Council |
| Cr Brian Lockyer | Barunga West Council |
| Geoff Lucas | Lucas Mills |
| Cr Jane MacAllister | Wentworth Shire Council |
| Cr Peter Mansfield | Moirra Shire Council |
| Cr Richard Marsh | Balonne Shire Council |
| Cr Paul Maytom | Leeton Shire Council |
| Cr Rick McDougall | Goondiwindi Regional Council |
| Greg McKenzie | Greater Shepparton City Council |
| Cr Jason Modica | Mildura Rural City Council |
| Cr Stephen O'Halloran | Balranald Shire Council |
| Stephen Packer | Rural City of Murray Bridge |
| Cr Dennis Patterson | Greater Shepparton City Council |
| Cr Paul Phillips | Lachlan Shire Council |
| Cr Peter Raison | Mid Murray Council |
| Glen Rappensberg | Alexandrina Council |
| Cr Greg Sauer | Tenterfield Shire Council |
| John Scarce | Murrumbidgee Council |
| Cr Michael Scott | Alexandrina Council |
| Cr Nancy Sommerfield | Toowoomba Regional Council |
| Cr David Thurley | Albury City Council |
| Cr Andrew Tilley | City of Mitcham |
| Cr Ian Todd | Balonne Shire Council |
| Cr Greg Verdon | Riverina Water County Council |
| Cr George Weston | Leeton Shire Council |
| Cr Terry Weston | Greater Hume Shire Council |
| Greg Whorlow | Albury City Council |
| Cr Dino Zappacosta | Griffith City Council |

2.2 Apologies

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| The Hon David Littleproud MP | Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management |
| The Hon Lisa Neville MP | Minister for Water Minister for Police and Emergency Services |

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| Senator the Hon Anne Ruston | (Victoria) Senator for South Australia, Minister for Families and Social Services Manager of Government Business in the Senate |
| The Hon Stephan Knoll | Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, South Australia |
| Senator Perin Davey | Senator for New South Wales |
| Tony Passin MP | Federal Member for Barker |
| Helen Dalton MP | Member for Murray, NSW |
| Cindy McLeish MP | State Member for Eildon |
| Andrew Powell MP | Member for Glass House, Shadow Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning |
| Hon Bob Katter MP | Federal Member for Kennedy |
| Lui Basile | Former councillor, Bendigo |
| Cr Chris Bilkey | Murray River Council |
| Cr Keith Campbell | South Burnett Regional Council |
| Steve Fawns | Murray Irrigation |
| Cr Mark Hall | Lachland Shire Council |
| Greg Hallam | CEO, ASK |
| Keith Loeser | |
| Cr Phyllis Miller | Forbes Shire Council |
| Raymond Najar | |
| Gaye Pattison | ABC Goulburn Murray |
| Mark Pitt | South Burnett Regional Council |
| Ross Skinner | Almond Board Australia |
| Jeff Sowiak | Brewarrina Shire Council |
| Frank Walker | Murray Darling Basin Authority |
| Cr Jill Whittaker | Campbelltown |
| Cr Frances Young | Gwydir Shire Council |

Motion: That apologies for the MDA 75th National Conference be accepted.

Moved: Cr J Campbell/Cr J MacAllister

Carried

2.3 Declaration of Interests

Nil

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: That the minutes of the 74th AGM, held on August 30th, 2018 in Leeton, NSW be adopted as an accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Cr P Maytom/Cr P Hunter

Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 2019 Annual Report

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association receive the Annual Report for the year ending June 30th, 2019.

Moved: Cr D Thurley /Cr P Hunter

Carried

4.2 2019 Financial Report

Motion: That the Murray Darling Association adopt the 2018-19 Annual Finance Reports.

Moved: P George /Cr J MacAllister

Carried

5. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

NOTE: As this is a special motion it must pass by a vote of 75% to carry.

Moved: **Cr J Campbell/Cr R Marsh**

That the Constitution of the Murray Darling Association be amended at

- i. Part 35 (b) such that the financial year of the MDA commences on 1 April and ends on the following 31 March, and*
- ii. Part 6 , s17 (3) such that that the annual general meeting of the MDA must be held between 1 April and 30 September in a particular year.*

Carried

Motion 2 Region 4 – Central Darling Shire Council

Moved: **Cr J MacAllister/Cr A Tilley**

That the MDA calls on Basin Governments to endorse the Menindee Lakes, or a portion of the Lake system to be listed as a Ramsar site, in further consultation with the community.

AMENDMENT - moved by Cr M Rebbeck, and supported by Cr J MacAllister and Cr A Tilley.

That the following be included in the motion:

- “and supported by science.”

Motion 2 AS AMENDED:

That the MDA calls on Basin Governments to endorse the Menindee Lakes, or a portion of the Lake system to be listed as a Ramsar site, in further consultation with the community and supported by science.

Carried

Motion 3 Murray Darling Association

Moved: **Cr J MacAllister/Cr J Campbell**

That the Murray Darling Association support the call on the NSW Government and Murray-Darling Basin Authority, to ensure that

- i) the NSW Water Sharing Plans and Resource Management Plans for the Barwon-Darling, Murray-Lower Darling and Northern Basin Rivers must include minimum river flow and storage levels that will protect the health of the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling River from the Queensland border to the Murray River.*
- ii) Minimum flows at sites along the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling River, in particular at Wilcannia, and water storage volumes in the Menindee Lakes must be reached before extraction of water for irrigation is allowed.*

Carried

Motion 4 Region 10 – Forbes Shire Council

Moved: S Loane /Cr P Phillips

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal Government to provide ongoing assistance for drought preparedness in the form of low interest innovation, water infrastructure and drought assistance loans, training and professional development in business management for farmers and continued support for Rural Financial counsellors to work with farmers long term, with the understanding that drought is part of the normal cycle of farming and needs to be planned for.

Carried

Motion 5 Region 10 – Brewarrina Shire Council

Moved: Cr J MacAllister/Cr J Modica

That the Murray Darling Association call on the Federal and State Government to address the urgent need for action on the Darling Barwon river system to ensure that the supply of safe drinking water for critical human needs and flows for stock and domestic use is the priority at all times, including priority over and above the release of water from dams for large scale irrigation, irrespective of the circumstances in which allocations have been pre-purchased or pre-allocated for large scale irrigation.

AMENDMENT - moved by Cr R Hooke, agreed by mover and seconder

That the following be excluded from the motion:

- *“including priority over and above the release of water from dams for large scale irrigation, irrespective of the circumstances in which allocations have been pre-purchased or pre-allocated for large scale irrigation.”*

Motion 5 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association call on the Federal and State Government to address the urgent need for action on the Darling Barwon river system to ensure that the supply of safe drinking water for critical human needs and flows for stock and domestic use is the priority at all times.

AMENDMENT – moved by Cr M Rebbeck, and agreed by mover and seconder.

That the following reference “stock and domestic use” be removed from the motion.

Motion 5 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association call on the Federal and State Government to address the urgent need for action on the Darling Barwon river system to ensure that the supply of safe drinking water for critical human needs and flows is the priority at all times.

Carried

Motion 6 Region 9

Moved: Cr P Maytom/ Cr D Patterson

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal and State Governments to immediately and proactively heed the Productivity Commission's recommendation for better governance and integrated delivery of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Projects as well as more realistic timeframes for delivery of those Projects.

AMENDMENT - moved by Cr M Rebbeck agreed by mover and seconder

That the following be excluded from the motion:

- *"as well as more realistic timeframes for delivery of those Projects."*

Motion 6 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal and State Governments to immediately and proactively heed the Productivity Commission's recommendation for better governance and integrated delivery of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Projects.

Carried

Motion 7 Region 9

Moved: Cr P Maytom / Cr A Tilley

That the Murray Darling Association calls on Federal and State governments to

- i) recognise, value, protect and honour the significant investment by taxpayers over many decades to establish irrigation schemes to feed the nation, and*
- ii) immediately place a moratorium on the development or opening of new irrigation farms downstream of long-established irrigation areas until the Basin Plan objectives are fully met and the full implications (environmental, economic and social) of the further geographic distribution of water entitlements is properly researched and understood.*
- iii) ensure that existing irrigation schemes are optimally utilised and are not subject to ongoing exacerbating swiss cheese effect through poor and / or silo-ed policy decisions and ineffectual land use planning that fails to consider implications for the Basin Plan, and*
- iv) engage meaningfully with and have genuine regard to the findings of the ACCC Inquiry into water trading that is underway*

AMENDMENT - moved by Cr M Rebbeck, seconded by Cr D Kruse

That parts 1,2,3 be deleted from the motion. Agreed by mover and seconder.

Motion 7 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association calls on Federal and State governments to engage meaningfully with and have genuine regard to the findings of the ACCC Inquiry into water trading that is underway

Division called. 24 supporting the motion, 11 opposing.

Carried

Motion 8 Region 9

Moved: Cr P Maytom/ Cr J Campbell

That the MDA calls on Basin governments to extend the 2019 deadline for approval of such Water Resource Plans where there are complex changes required and there are material risks to the quality of the plans.

AMENDMENT: Cr M Rebbeck, supported by Cr P Maytom/Cr J Campbell, recommended the following amendment:

That the MDA consider on a case by case basis any request received from the MDBA to extend the 2019 deadline for approval for the Water Resource Plans.

Division called. 27 supporting the motion, and 9 opposing.

Carried

Motion 9 Region 9

Moved: Cr P Maytom/ Cr B Lockyer

That the Murray Darling Association calls on

- i) Basin Governments to revise their state-based planning instruments to have regard to the significant contribution of established irrigation areas to providing food security and generating export earnings for the region, state and commonwealth when state significant development applications are being assessed. Such as the NSW Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policies that applies to large solar farm applications.*
- ii) Basin Governments, should schemes still be approved, to make compulsory development contributions by solar companies commensurate with the loss of a typical crop to the wider processing and freight economy, for the life of the solar project.*

Carried

Motion 10 Region 6

Moved: Cr M Rebbeck / Cr A Tilley

That the MDA adopt a policy which facilitates continuity of Region leadership in Local Government election years, with the Region AGM to be held as soon as practicably possible after the outcome of Local Government elections is known.

Carried

Motion 11 Region 6

Moved: Cr M Rebbeck/ Cr A Tilley

That the MDA consider possible constitutional change which would enable a nominated member of the Region Executive to attend MDA Board meetings as proxy for Region Chair should the Region Chair be unavailable to attend.

Carried

Motion 12 Region 6

Moved: Cr M Rebbeck / Cr A Tilley

That the MDA advocate for increased State and Federal government investment in research that articulates the impact of nutrient load in the Murray Darling Basin as a result of current and forecast increased fertiliser and herbicide usage from agriculture in the run-off zone, reports on findings, and identifies alternatives that will reduce nutrient loads.

Carried

Motion 13 Region 6

Moved: Cr M Rebbeck / Cr P Maytom

That the Murray Darling Association call on Australia's Government and the National Farmers Federation to ensure that the agricultural productivity target is to be supported by a research program to develop innovative strategies for achieving the target in a water constrained future, including via the use of alternative water sources.

Carried

Motion 14 Region 6

Moved: Cr M Rebbeck/ Cr B Lockyer

That the Murray Darling Association engage with the Federal Government on how it intends to facilitate population growth whilst maximizing socio-economic benefits for regional communities and mitigating risks to the health of the Murray-Darling Basin system.

Carried

Motion 15 Region 5

Moved: Cr P Hunter/ Cr P Maytom

- i) That the MDA continues to publicly support the ACCC Investigation*
- ii) That the MDA calls for the continual move toward transparency of all water trading and water trading mechanisms in the Murray-Darling Basin including the access to water trading information.*

Carried

Motion 16 Region 9

Moved: Cr P Maytom/ Cr D Patterson

That the Murray Darling Association calls on Federal and State governments to

- i) Develop a transparent National Water Trading Platform which will serve as a single source of information on water, from recovery targets to allocations, through to sales (whether permanent or temporary)*
- ii) Require routine disclosure statements by larger water holders (such as any person or entity that owns upwards of 2% of available entitlements in an area or any water trading companies), and*
- iii) Require routine disclosure by banks of any debts recovered through forced water sales in irrigation farming areas*

AMENDMENT: Cr D Kruse moved amendment to change the word “National Water Trading Platform” to “National Water Information”. Seconded by Cr M Rebbeck. Mover and seconder agreed.

Motion 16 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association calls on Federal and State governments to

- i) Develop a transparent National Water Information Platform which will serve as a single source of information on water, from recovery targets to allocations, through to sales (whether permanent or temporary)*
- ii) Require routine disclosure statements by larger water holders (such as any person or entity that owns upwards of 2% of available entitlements in an area or any water trading companies), and*
- iii) Require routine disclosure by banks of any debts recovered through forced water sales in irrigation farming areas*

Cr A Kassebaum proposed a further amendment, recommending that the MDA supports part 1 of this motion, but not part 2 and 3. Mover and seconder did not agree.

Vote went to the room with 17 for the amendment and 19 against the amendment. The amendment is lost.

Carried

Motion 17 Region 4 – Wentworth Shire Council

Moved: Cr J MacAllister/ Cr P Hunter

That the MDA request from the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and the MDBA a complete accounting of all water storages, including open channels, diversions and on-farm storages holding un-metered water in temporary storages, for public release.

Carried

Motion 18 Murray Darling Association

Moved: Cr D Thurley / Cr P Maytom

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Australian Government to provide direct funding to assist local government to address the risks of climate change through the development of renewable energy facilities and support related community actions.

AMENDMENT: Cr M Rebbeck proposed an amendment, the adding of regenerative agriculture, which was accepted by mover and seconder.

Motion 18 AS AMENDED:

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Australian Government to provide direct funding to assist local government to address the risks of climate change through the development of renewable energy facilities, regenerative agriculture and support related community actions.

Carried

Motion 19 Region 4 – Wentworth Shire Council

Moved: Cr J MacAllister / Cr P Maytom

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Water Minister, to recognise concerns from Indigenous groups, traditional owners and custodians that:

- i) they are unable to continue cultural practices, due to lack of cultural flows;*
- ii) there is an increased financial impost on high Indigenous population towns for drinking water, where same is unavailable, or of poor quality;*
- iii) a lack of genuine, integrated and informed consultation has been the norm in matters of water management and projects which directly affect native title holders, traditional custodians and Land Council groups and individuals, combined with lack of feedback or Minutes from meetings with Government representatives and agencies; and*
- iv) local First Nations people hold knowledge from greater timelines than current records about flows, floods, movement and interplay of the entire riverine ecology, yet there is a resistance to engaging with that knowledge, utilising the skills and management practices used for*

many centuries (45,000 years in our region), despite clear desire from most groups to assist and play a more active role in water and land management.

Carried

Motion 20 Region 12

Moved: Cr R McDougall / Cr R Marsh

AMENDMENT: Cr Dino Zappacosta proposed an amendment, to include Dave Coffeey Clarence scheme. This was agreed by mover and seconder.

Motion 20 AS AMENDED

That the Murray Darling Association call on the National Water Infrastructure Grid Taskforce to inquire into the merits and feasibility of a water river diversion scheme, to include David Coffey's Clarence scheme, to enhance the sustainability of the Murray Darling Basin.

AMENDMENT: Cr M Rebbeck proposed an amendment to change the words 'inquire into' to 'investigate', which was supported by mover and seconder.

Motion 20 AS AMENDED

That the Murray Darling Association call on the National Water Infrastructure Grid Taskforce to investigate into the impacts, merits and feasibility of a water river diversion scheme, to include David Coffey's Clarence scheme, to enhance the sustainability of the Murray Darling Basin.

Carried

Motion 21 Murray Darling Association

Moved: Cr D Thurley / Cr P Maytom

That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal Treasurer to establish an independent inquiry to be undertaken by the Productivity Commission to enquire into the relationship between the National Agriculture Plan 2030 and the Murray- Darling Basin Plan, with particular reference to

- i) the risks to the implementation of either Plan to the extent of any inconsistencies or conflict of policy or priority between the two plans.*
- ii) the risks and opportunities for local communities in the implementation of the Ag Plan.*
- iii) the benefits of having a coordinated social and economic impact analysis underpinning an agreed implementation framework.*

Carried

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

The 76th Annual General Meeting will be held during August 2020 in Shepparton
Date and location are to be advised.

7. CLOSE