



# Chief Executive Officer Monthly Report

May and June 2021

Murray Darling Association Incorporated  
ABN 64 636 490 493

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. Key Meetings and Engagement

Date	Event/meeting	Location
19 April	Tanya Plibersek MP - Opposition	Virtual
21 April	Department of Agriculture Water & Environment Meeting	Virtual
23 April	NSW Update on ACCC Murray-Darling Basin water markets inquiry	Virtual
4 May	MDBA Webinar Menindee Lakes Update	Virtual
16 – 19 May	MDA National Conference	Wentworth
22 May	Bridge Art Project Gala Dinner	Moama
24 May	24 May – 11 June Annual leave	
16 June	MDA Region 2 Meeting	Virtual
17 June	MDA Region 7 Meeting	
20 – 23 June	ALGA Conference	Canberra
21 June	Meeting The Hon Troy Grant Interim Inspector - General of Water Compliance	Virtual
22 June	Meeting The Hon Sussan Ley	Canberra
22 June	Meeting National Water Grid Authority – Malcom Southwell	Canberra
22 June	Meeting Phillip Glyde, Hilton Taylor, Rachel Connell	Canberra
23 June	Meeting Chris Baisaga, Water Advisor to The Hon Keith Pitt	
23 June	Meeting Senator Perin Davey	
23 June	Meeting Department of Planning Industry and Environment – Water and projects team	Canberra
23 June	Meeting Department of Planning Industry and Environment – First Nations engagement	Canberra
23 June	Introduction – Warren Mundine	Canberra
25 June	MDA Region 1 Meeting	Virtual
28 June	MDA Board Meeting 409	Virtual
28 June	Productivity Commission Meeting	Virtual

## 3. Highlights

### 3.1 MDA 77<sup>th</sup> National Conference

Report yet to be written, but all accounts indicate a very strong success.

James has built the webpage, and uploaded the content, presentation and videos. Excellent job.

Significant work has already commenced in prosecuting the case for the resolutions made at conference with meetings held in Canberra to present the motions to responsible MPs and departments for further discussion and follow-up.

### 3.2 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program	Project	Budget	Status Update
Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Fund - (Round 3)	Regional Economic Diversification Program	\$4,106,646	No decision on these projects yet. I continued to press the case in Canberra for funding of these projects. Minister has indicated that announcements will now be made in stages.
	Basin Communities Leadership Program II	\$966,046	
	Local Government Centre for Excellence	\$1,000,000	
	Climate Ready and Water Secure Regions	\$719,000	
	Basin Communities Resilience Scorecard	\$868,760	
	Murray-Darling Basin Round-Table	\$133,000	
Building Better Regions Fund - Community Investments Stream - Round 5	Project planning and fundraising strategy	\$20,000	MDA It's On Purpose
	National Conference - Livestream	\$30,460	Unsuccessful
Destination NSW	National Conference Contribution	\$20,000	Approved

### 3.3 Membership

Following the February trip with Cr Craig Davies, the following councils have commenced paid membership with the MDA.

- Gilgandra Shire Council
- Coonamble Shire Council
- Mid Western Shire Council

Due to the work and advocacy of Cr John Campbell in Region 11, Glen Innes Severn Council has joined.

Region 2 meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> June, Chaired by Cr Bronwyn Thomas was an outstanding meeting – one of the best I have ever seen in my time at the MDA. Congratulation to Cr Thomas on all the work put into that meeting, and the engagement and outcomes generated.

## 4. Operational Update

Jess Maher has resigned with her last day on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Sharolyn Taylor has resigned to commence work with Rochester Regional Health. Her last day was on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.

James Marshall has advised that he has applied for an internship in the Northern Territory in 2022 and if successful will conclude with the MDA in December 2021.

Staff have been provided with an exit survey and interview.

The rapid exit of these two staff members presents a critical risk for the MDA with a requirement to reprioritise workload, revise the budget and commence recruitment.

Board members are asked to be aware that expectations must be realistic and that workload management is a real and present health and safety consideration for remaining staff.

#### **4.1 Australian Local Government Association**

##### **BCLP – South Australia**

Deputy Mayor Simone Bailey and CEO Ben Scales Mid-Murray Council Champions for the Leadership Program. Will be brilliant!

Deputy Mayor Bronwyn Lewis  
Alexandrina Council  
Cr Melissa Rebbeck

**NEW DATES PROPOSED – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Mannum/Mid-Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August – Alexandrina**

##### **Berrigan Shire Council**

Mayor Matt Hannan and GM Karina Ewer  
May book a BCLP for the newly elected council after September.

##### **Federation Shire**

Mayor Pat Bourke  
Region 1 and Region 2  
Region 1 meeting – Friday: **PURPOSE**

##### **Meeting with Troy Grant**

Bridgette Leopold appointed Deputy Inspector General. Commence 17/07/2021  
Bill is in the Senate on Wednesday.  
MDA to write to IG with the resolutions – to inform the IG's annual work plan.

##### **Coorong Council**

Mayor Paul Simmons  
Workshop invitation – presentation to council Tuesday. Possibly August.

##### **Tony Sivior – Renmark Paranga Council**

RPC going for International Water Stewardship Accreditation  
First in Australia to do so. Opportunity for more councils to do same.

##### **Aunty Violet Sheridan**

##### **Ngunnawal Country**

##### **Mayor Charlie Gillingham**

##### **Gannawarra Shire**

Invitation to present to council later in the year.

**Councils outside – strong support for the MDA and councils working together for water security.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Bradbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Emma Bradbury**  
**Chief Executive Officer**