



Chief Executive Officer's Report  
August 2020

Emma Bradbury  
ceo@mda.asn.au

## 1. Introduction

This will be a very brief introduction, reflecting the demands and deadlines imposed upon us as we approach our first ever fully virtual national conference and AGM.

I am once again proud to introduce a monthly and an annual report that has seen tremendous growth for the MDA in our ability to deliver value for our members and for the Basin community.

## 2. Appointments

Date	Event/meeting	Location
15/07/2020	Forbes Council preparatory questions for Minister Pavey	Via Zoom
16/07/2020	Barmah Choke discussions with Ian Davidson & Greater Shepparton Council	Via Zoom
16/07/2020	Region 7 AGM and Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom
20/07/2020	MDA Board Meeting 400	Via Zoom
20/07/2020	Initial discussions with Truth Agency re: National Conference	Via Zoom
20/07/2020	Greater Shepparton Councils discussions re Video for study tour	Via Zoom
20/07/2020	South Burnett Council – Cr Kirstie Schumacher	Via Zoom
21/07/2020	Region 10 Ordinary Meeting	Via Zoom
21/07/2020	One Basin CRC Partner Bid discussions	Via Zoom
21/07/2020	Department of Agriculture BCLP discussions with Sam Lucas	Via Zoom
22/07/2020	Leadership Program Panel format discussions – Peter Cullen Trust and Aither	Via Zoom
22/07/2020	National Conference discussions with Mr Rohan Hamden	Via Zoom
22/07/2020	Production discussions with Greater Shepparton Council and videographer	Via Zoom
23/07/2020	BCLP discussions with Walgett Shire Council	Via Zoom
23/07/2020	Marketing discussions – Truth Agency – National Conference	Via Zoom
27/07/2020	Mr Ramzi Jabour – Office of the Inspector General MDB Water Resources	Canberra
27/07/2020	Mr Hilton Taylor – Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	Canberra
27/07/2020	Mr Brendan McRandle - CEO National Water Grid Authority Deputy Secretary, Water Infrastructure Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development	Canberra
27/07/2020	Matt Cahill, Lyn O’Connell Rachel Connell & Peta Durham Dept of Agriculture	Canberra
27/07/2020	Mr Phillip Glyde and Daniel Blacker – MDBA	Canberra
27/07/2020	Jackie Schirmer – Australian National University	Canberra
28/07/2020	NFF – Mr Tony Maher and Mr Warrick Ragg	Canberra
28/07/2020	Kate McMasters – Peter Cullen Trust – BCLP discussions	Yass
28/07/2020	Mr Pat Westwood – BCLP Leadership program	Albury
29/07/2020	Regions Rising Webinar- Regional Renaissance: Can we lead recovery	Webinex
29/07/2020	Truth Agency kick off marketing meeting – National Conference	Zoom
29/07/2020	MDB Roundtable Organiser Meeting – Wentworth Group	Zoom
30/07/2020	Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting	Zoom

03/08/2020	MDA Operations Planning workshop	Zoom
03/08/2020	Meredith Macpherson Central NSW Joint Organisation	Zoom

### 3. Meetings

During the period of 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020, I attended several meetings/engagements in Canberra to discuss a range of issues with our federal partners including

**Mr Ramzi Jabour**

Office of the Inspector General MDB Water Resources

**Mr Hilton Taylor**

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

**Mr Brendan McRandle**

CEO National Water Grid Authority

Deputy Secretary, Water Infrastructure

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development

**Matt Cahill, Lyn O'Connell Rachel Connell & Peta Durham**

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

**Mr Phillip Glyde**

Murray Darling Basin Authority

**Daniel Blacker**

Murray Darling Basin Authority

**Jackie Schirmer**

Australian National University

**Mr Tony Maher and Mr Warrick Ragg**

National Farmers Federation

Topics discussed and progressed in these meetings included

- Basin Communities Leadership Program
- Relationship between QLD/NSW and the National Investment Strategy
- Communication and Engagement
- Basin Community Resilience Scorecard
- Barmah Choke – Projects/Information/Responsibility
- MDB Local Government & Communities Centre of Excellence
- Process for local government involvement in technical feedback on EWPs
- MDA 76<sup>th</sup> National conference
- MDA Strategic Plan – Vision 2020

### 4. Membership

With an ongoing drive to grow our memberships, many regions are considering means to attract individual member to the organisation. The individual membership category is an important one that enables the MDA to legitimately incorporate and welcome the views of technical experts and community perspectives where that expertise and perspectives are not readily available through council. It also provides community members with an opportunity to contribute to achieving our core purpose.

Regions are reminded that there is a detailed approval process for the application and approval of new members that may assist in supporting the membership drive.

The following extract may be helpful. A full copy of the MDA's membership policy is available on the MDA website.

**Recruitment of Private Individual Memberships (Regionally)**  
***Membership process and Policy***

**Where a person applies to join a Region of the Murray Darling Association in the category of Individual Member**

- (1) The CEO will promptly
  - a. send a copy of the application to the Chair and the secretariat of the Region specified in the application, and to the MDA Membership Services Officer (MSO) or,
  - b. in the case of an application from a person where no region is specified in the application, to the Chair and the secretariat of the region of the municipality in which the applicant is a resident, or
  - c. in the case of an application from a person who is resident of a municipality not within an existing region of the MDA that person will be eligible for membership at large and will be considered by the Board.
- (2) The MSO will contact the Chair of the region and prepare a brief biography of the applicant. The applicant may be invited to provide further information to support the biography, including information on the person's reasons and objectives in seeking to join the MDA.
- (3) The Chair will bring the application before the next general meeting of the Region, and the region must either resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be accepted or resolve to recommend to the Board that the application be refused;
- (4) If the application is recommended for acceptance:
  - a. the Region secretary will notify the Board of the recommendation; and
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must resolve to either
    - i. accept the Region Executive's recommendation, and the MSO will promptly notify the applicant and the Region Chair that the applicant has become a Member of the Region and the date from which that membership is effective, or,
    - ii. reject the Region Executive's recommendation and refuse the application.
- (5) If the Region resolves to recommend to the Board that the application be refused:
  - a. the Region Secretary must notify the Board within 14 days that the Region has resolved to recommend that the application be refused.
  - b. at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or
- (6) In the case of a Member applying to transfer his or her membership to another Region, the member must put the request in writing to the MSO, whereupon the matter will be considered by the relevant regions at the next meeting of the region.
  - a. Both regions will provide their recommendations to the Board and at the next board meeting after receiving that notification the Board must either:
    - i. accept the Region's recommendation, or

**5. 76<sup>th</sup> National Virtual Conference and AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Registrations have commenced, with complete marketing strategies in play to maximize registrations. We have sought the expertise from publicist company *The Truth Agency*, to assist with the digital engagement, media plans including media releases and strategy for best practice and maximum outcomes.

## **6. Basin Community Leadership Program**

With further restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, The Mildura (Vic) dates scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 have been temporarily postponed.

With the closure of the borders now between NSW and QLD, the dates scheduled for Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi and St. George have also been temporarily postponed.

Currently, the MDA will now be delivering their first BCLP 2-day workshop in NSW at Wakool on the **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020**.

The GO1 Platform is live and interactive with the resource manual being prepared for printing to be then forwarded to participants one month prior to their face-to-face workshop.

Our reporting milestone for the department is due on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## **7. Operational Update**

Adam Scott commenced work with the MDA on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as an intern. Adam will be working 1 day a week to gain an insight into the operations and policy work that is undertaken by the MDA.

Adam has completed a Bachelor of Politics and Criminology and is looking to enhance his skill sets by gaining hands on experience. Adam is currently working farms and driving tractors and welcomes the warm surroundings of an office environment.

We welcome Adam as yet another addition to our uniquely committed and high performing team, and I am already keen to seek opportunities to turn this internship to a more secure paid position.

**Emma Bradbury**



**Chief Executive Officer**