



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 31 July 2025

Venue Rural City of Murray Bridge, Council Offices 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge

Briefing

PROGRAM

9:00am	Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee
9:15am	Board Briefing Opens (not open to the public)
10:15am	Board Briefing Close

Annual General Board Meeting

PROGRAM

10:30am	Annual General Meeting Open
2:00pm	General Meeting Close
	Morning Tea and Light Lunch provided

The Board Meeting is open to the public and upon prior request a via MS Teams Video Conference link can be arranged. For online access please email ceo@mrlga.sa.gov.au prior to 7 April.

*Being a unified local government sector
working in the best interest of the region and our communities*



AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1	Minutes from Previous Board Meeting
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ATTACHMENT 3	MDA Region 6 Meeting Minutes
ATTACHMENT 4	MRLGA – Waste Management & Resource Recovery – Regional Report
ATTACHMENT 5	Quarterly Financial Statements
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ATTACHMENT 8	Mid Murry Council feedback to Draft ABP
ATTACHMENT 9	Renmark Paringa Council feedback to Draft ABP

1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Chairperson, President Mayor Caroline Phillips to open the meeting.

Welcome Board Members and invited guests.

No apologies communicated.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and work. We respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection as the custodians of this land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today.

We recognise the living culture and combined energies of the Ngarrindjeri people, our global Pioneers and Community Members today for their unique contribution to the life of our Region.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Clause 3.3.1 of the Charter and Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), board members are required to declare any potential conflict of interest(s).

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A copy of the General Board Meeting Minutes is provided at [Attachment 1](#) (including attendance register).

Motion

"Minutes of the MRLGA General Board Meeting held at the Nildottie Town Hall on 10 April 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved,

Seconded

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

20 October 2023 - General Meeting		
Action:		
10	<i>Charter Review and Update</i> <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector MRLGA Ceo to research other lga's voting procedures.</i> <i>Agreed that the item is brought back to the Board Meeting in February 2024.</i> That the MRLGA Board support the proposed changes to the Charter and ask the MRLGA CEO to have them reviewed legally and any feedback brought back to the board before proceeding.	Temporarily on hold until the LGA constitutional review was completed. Councils voted at the LGA AGM November Minutes. AGM-2024-Minutes-22-November-2024.pdf MRLGA will now proceed to do a periodical review of the Charter.
18 April 2024 – General Meeting		
Action		
19	That the MRLGA Ceo write to the new Local Government Minister and invite him to meet with the board for a broader conversation about financial sustainability in the Local Government sector. If successful with a meeting MRLGA, Ceo will prepare and agenda and online meeting ahead of time to prepare.	– Invited early June for 25 July Meeting – unable to attend. – Invited to 9 August meeting – unable to

		- attend. - Invited in late March and am working with the advisor on a suitable date. - Invited to 31 July Board Meeting. Unable to attend.
	* There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the above 2 items remain pending.	

7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting		
Action(s)		
1	Roads to Recovery The MRLGA Ceo pursues a conversation about the Roads to Recovery Funding allocations and report back to the Board	Completed.
2	A.I R&D Application The MRLGA Ceo submits an application to the LGA Research & Development Scheme for an AI project (based on its research to date) and if successful liaise with the MRLGA Ceo network on scope before engaging a consultant.	No longer an action. (Application not submitted due to scoping issues.)
3	Flood Funding The MRLGA Ceo liaise with Ceo's of flood impacted Councils to understand the scope of shortfall occurring post flood and report back (including the recent \$9m Community and Recreation Asset Restoration Program and insurance claim outcomes).	Completed.
4	Policy That draft meeting procedure Option 2 for Appointment of President of the Subsidiary is endorsed by the Board in the interim, awaiting an alternate draft procedure to be presented to the Board at future meeting.	- Scheduled Q4. - After consultation with the Ceo Network, the advice is to proceed with voting (as per Act) after the ABP&B is adopted. Therefore a policy/procedure for voting is not required.
5	Regional Transport Plan That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to investigate alternate methods of a strategic transport plan, gaining feedback from the Regional Transport Committee and Ceo Network on alternatives to a static document before reporting back to the Board.	- On hold until the release of the State Transport Strategy. - Was released March 2025. This work will now be rescheduled for 25/26.
6	Regional Drought Resilience Plan The MRLGA re-engage PIRSA and Ministers (Scriven's) Office regarding MRLGA's role in relation to MR Plan, Drought Resilience and Drought Response.	Follow up discussions have happened with PIRSA (not the Ministers office as yet).
7	Drought Response The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to continue providing coordination and advocacy for (Murraylands and Riverland) regional drought response, and report back to the board on any impact(s) this may have on the Annual Business Plan (on an as needs basis).	Ongoing (updates have been provided online (at optional meetings) and via email updates.

Thursday 6 February 2025 – General Meeting		
Action(s)		
	No motions for action.	
	Question time to Presenter(s)	
8	Item 6.2 – Resilient Rivers Framework	PIRSA released

	An inquiry was made to PIRSA / Peter Appleford if communique from PIRSA on details of the work can be released within the week (ie 7 February '25)? It was advised PIRSA will look into it.	a 5 pg communique to the Water Working Group on 6 and 7 March '25.
	General Request(s)	
9	Item 5.1 - ALGA Motions Agreed to revisit the options for a motion during an online session in late Feb/early March.	- An online meeting was held on Thursday 20 February '25. No further action.
10	Agreed to list Coastal and Jettie Infrastructure / River Infrastructure on next meeting agenda for group discussion	- Completed.
11	A question was asked if the MRLGA has a plan / timing for if/when the WMRR Strategy will be updated.	- Refer to Item 8.2 (under Follow Up).

	10 April 2025	
	Action	
12	Model Financial Statements The MRLGA Board endorse the MRLGA Ceo to submit feedback on 2025 Model Financial Statements, asking the Subsidiary be required to submit General Purpose Financial Statements as part of an annual audit and report process.	- Completed, although it was advised that <i>'the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations have remained unchanged since 2007, so is a matter that would require regulatory change rather than through the periodical review of the Model Financial Statements.'</i>
13	RDRP Letter The MRLGA Board delegate its power to President, Vice President and Ceo to finalise a letter to Minister Scriven about future governance and delivery model associated with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan in light of additional funding coming from the State and Federal Government	- A draft letter is sitting with Ceo, President and VP, pending a final review and issuing.
14	Flood Observation The MRLGA Ceo is to share a copy of the draft flood observations report with SERM, DPC as well as advise SERM, DPC to contact Councils for their reports too.	- Completed.
15	The MRLGA Ceo inquire with OSFB if it would consider altering its closed delivery partner program to others.	- Not yet commenced.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board:

- *note the actions completed and those underway from the previous meetings and*
- *agrees that Item 19 from 18 April 2024 has been exhausted and is removed from the actions register at this time.*

Moved,

Seconded

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

For Information

- **Current Policy Work**
 - Local Government Financial Sustainability
 - Emergency Management
 - Housing and Planning
 - Roads & Infrastructure
 - Closing the gap
 - Jobs and Skills
 - Environment
 - Cyber Security
 - Climate Change
 - Intergovernmental relations
- **How 'we' represent local government**

ALGA represents and advocates for local government by participating in the following Ministerial Councils and Forums:

 - National Cabinet (once per year)
 - Council on Federal Financial Relations (once per year)
 - Local Government Ministers' Forum
 - Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting
 - National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting
 - Joint Council on Closing the Gap
 - Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council
 - Environment Ministers' Meeting
 - Building Ministers' Meeting
 - Water Ministers' Meeting
 - Planning Ministers' Meeting
 - Cultural Ministers' Meeting
 - Food Ministers' Meeting
 - Ministerial Migration Roundtable
- **Advocacy**
 - o **ALGA President's Update**

[President's Update – 7 July 2025 – ALGA](#)
 - o **2025 National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra 24-27 June 2025**

Theme : National Priorities Need Local Solutions

A link to the conferences Business Papers is below:
[2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS PAPERS](#)
 - o **"Adapting Together"**

Local Government leadership in changing climate report

The *Adapting Together: Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate report* was launched at the National General Assembly in Canberra on 26 June 2025. The ground-breaking report uses more than 200 examples of councils showing leadership and taking action to address climate impacts, and five case studies to model the national value of local government climate adaptation. The report was prepared with the support of Nation Partners and Ricardo

[Adapting Together – Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate](#)

[report – ALGA](#)

- **Funding Emergency**

ALGA issued a media release titled 'funding emergency' following the Federal Parliaments inquiry into Local Government Sustainability and its interim report. A link to the media release is below:

[Parliamentary report highlights funding emergency – Australian Local Government Association](#)

- **Webinar GenAI in Local Government**

21 August 2025 (link below for more information and to register)

[GenAI in Local Government – ALGA](#)

- **2025 Roads Congress in Bendigo**

A friendly reminder to [register](#) for the 2025 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress to be held in Bendigo, VIC - 11-12 November.

- **The items above are open for any discussion** (no motions proposed).

5.2 LGA of SA

– News

For Information:

○ Topical Update

A link to the LGA most recent topical update is below:

<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/members/member-services-updates?>

○ LGA Strategic Plan

A link to the Draft Strategic Plan is below.

Feedback closed 9 May 2025.

<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/resources/documents/members-only-files/about-the-lga/LGA-Draft-Strategic-Plan-for-Consultation-March-2025.pdf>

○ Local Government Elections : Voting proposed to be mandatory

A link to the advocacy and status of the Bill is below:

<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/latest-news/2025/parliament-set-to-debate-council-elections-legislation>

○ LGA Board Meeting July Agenda is below:

[ECM_846758_Public-LGA-Board-of-Directors-Meeting-24-July-2025.pdf](#)

○ Local Government Ministers Forum

Last Meetings:

1 Nov 2024 (in person Melbourne attended by Minister Szakacs)

April 2025 (online)

November Communique:

[Joint Communiqué: Local Government Ministerial Forum #14 November 2024, Melbourne, Victoria](#)

April Communique:

This has not been released at the time of this agenda being prepared.

Open for questions

○ Andrew Lamb from LGA is available to receive any questions.

– LGA Events

For Information

Upcoming events hosted by LGA

Coming soon	
12 March 2025	Webinar: Applying for slrp funding
18 March 2025	KESAB waste and recycling tour
26 March – 2 July	Workshop: Net Zero Accelerate Program
21 May 2025	KESAB Waste and recycling tours
22 May	Leading Edge – AI Conference
23 May	LGA OGM
24 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Networking Dinner
25 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Forum
20 August 2025	Roads & Works Conference (Tailem Bend)
20 November 2025	Mayor Forum

5.3

SAROC Update

Meetings have been scheduled / held on:

18 January	2024	(Adelaide)
14 March	2024	(Adelaide)
16 May	2024	(Adelaide)
18 July	2024	(Adelaide)
3 October	2024	(Mount Gambier)
5 December	2024	(Adelaide)
23 January	2025	(Adelaide)
27 March	2025	(Whyalla)
24 July 2025	2025	Adelaide
2 October	2025	Renmark (tbc)
4 December	2025	

A link to the **March Agenda** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/1781749/SAROC-Committee-PUBLIC-Agenda-and-Papers-27-March-2025-Karen-approved.pdf

A link to the **March Minutes** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0039/1788168/ECM_834993_v10_SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Draft-Public-Minutes-27-March-2025.pdf

A link to the **July Agenda** is below:

https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/1841167/SAROC-Committee-Meeting-Public-Agenda-and-Papers-24-July-2025.pdf

For Discussion & Update

– SAROC Representatives

Regional representatives Mayor Caroline Phillips and Mayor Simone Bailey will provide a verbal update.

A link to the SAROC Terms of Reference is below:

[LGA South Australia](#)

SAROC Rep's to receive any questions from the Board.

– Drought Response and Recovery

Mayor Paul Simmons (SA Drought Advisory LGA Rep) or MRLGA Ceo is available for any questions from the Board.

A link to PIRSA's drought support initiatives is below:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/emergencies_and_recovery/drought/drought_support?shorturl_drought-support

LGA has submitted a Council Rate Deferral Scheme proposal that will be considered by Ministers and DPC. This follows an online webinar held for members on 11 July 2025.

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

6.1 Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland

The organisations quarterly update can be found at [Attachment 2](#).

6.2 PIRSA- Principal Regional Advisor

Welcome Barbara Cowey who re-commenced in the role on Monday 14 July 2025.

A quarter update will be provided on the day as a hand-out.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland

No written update provided.

6.4 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)

A copy of the regions Murray and Malle Zone EM Plan can be visited via the link below:
https://resources-production.safecom.sa.gov.au/current/docs/murray_mallee_zone_emergency_management_plan.pdf

The meeting schedule is:

21 March	2024 (Murray Bridge)
15 May	2024 (Murray Bridge)
19 March	2025 (Murray Bridge)
14 May	2025 (Loxton)
9 July	2025 (Loxton)
13 August	2025 (venue tbc)
18 November	2025 (venue tbc)

Minutes from the meeting on 14 May or 9 July 2025 had not been released at the time of this agenda being prepared.

MRLGA Ceo has attended the meetings and can answer any questions from the Board.

6.5 Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event

The latest update from the Secretary was received on 31 March 2025. The draft findings report may be tabled late April (but is still tbc).

<https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Committees/Committees-Detail>

6.6 Murray Darling Association

Next Conference

81st National Conference - "The future of Water Security"
Griffith, NSW
September 2025

Region 5

Region 5 Chair is Cr Margaret Howie (RPC)

No meeting minutes have been provided.

Region 6

Region 6 Chair is Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)

A copy of the Minutes from the 20 June 2025 meeting can be found at [Attachment 3](#).

6.7 SA Drought Hub

The SA Drought hub July 2025 Newsletter can be found below:

<https://us6.campaign-archive.com/?u=92d0af1c0bf3323bbd7c01204&id=58aded7d87>

MRLGA has inquired about the new organisational structure and is waiting on a reply.

6.8 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

A link to the One Basin CRC's current projects can be found below:

<https://onebasin.com.au/projects/>

Some include:

- Decarbonising the Bains's irrigation regions
- Cyanobacteria toxin uptake in food crops and implications to humans
- Geospatial modelling of region-scale crop water use to forecast climate change
- Incentivising and investing in climate adaptation and the adoption of sustainable basin management practices
- Water banking for enhance drought resilience
- Predicting the impact of climate change on irrigation demand across One Basin
- Opportunities and challenges identifying, sourcing and treating brackish groundwater

6.9 SAPOL

Officer in Charge Cynthia Healey.

Supt Cindy Healey
Officer in Charge
Murray Mallee Region
South Australia Police
58 Swanport Rd, Murray Bridge
T 08 853 56076 M 0410466384
E Cynthia.Healey@police.sa.gov.au
W www.police.sa.gov.au

Encouraged to follow its Facebook page for live updates and initiatives:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthAustraliaPolice/>

6.10 Department of Environment & Water

Latest update on SA harmful algal bloom:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/news-hub/news/articles/2025/07/sa-harmful-algal-bloom-update>

9 News Story 18 July 2025 (20mins):

[TIMELINE: Calls for Royal Commission into SA's toxic algae bloom | 9 News Australia](#)

State Government algal bloom support package:

[State Government reveals next stage of algal bloom support package - Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia - PIRSA](#)

6.11 Country SAPHN

A link to its July 2025 News is found below:

[July 2025 Volume 11 Issue 6 - Country SA PHN](#)

Industry Education and Events

“ Dry July “

National NAIDOC Week

National Diabetes Week

6.12 Country Arts

A link to available grants is below:

[Grants - Country Arts](#)

Open for questions

Opportunity to discuss any matters contained within the reports or meeting minutes from other agency's.

Motion

“That the MRLGA Board note and accept the regional stakeholders written reports and/or minutes shared.”

Moved,

Seconded

7 State Strategy's

The following State Strategy's or Plans are under review, under development and/or out for consultation.

For Information

7.1 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

Consultation on the Murray Mallee Regional Plan closed 17 June 2025.

The final Plan will be released late 2025 and will be fully digital and accessible via the [Regional Planning Portal\(External link\)](#).

7.2 State Waste Strategy

Consultation on the Draft Strategy opened 28 May 2025 and closed 23 July 2025.

[Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030 | YourSAy](#)

The final release date is tbc.

7.3 State Public Health Plan

Development of the 2025 State Public Health Plan commenced in late 2024

[State Public Health Plan | SA Health](#)

- Draft plan released for targeted consultation - May to June 2025
- General plan consultation - September 2025
- Final plan release (tbc)

7.4 State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy

Consultation on the Draft Strategy opened 21 May 2025 and closed 27 June 2025

[Future of Public Transport - Department for Infrastructure and Transport - South Australia](#)

The final release date is tbc.

7.5 State 30 Year Transport Plan

Completed and released March 2025.

[South Australia's Transport Strategy 2025](#)

7.6 Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

Country SA PHN and the Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA Health) are working together to develop a Joint Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2026 – 2029 (Joint Regional Plan) for country South Australia. Consultation closed 4 July 2025.

[Joint Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2026 – 2029 | YourSAy](#)

The final release date is tbc.

7.7 State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office

The new Office is named the Coordinator Generals Office (CGO). The CGO is a body of 4 members nominated by the Minister responsible for the SDCF Act and appointed by the Governor.

[Introducing the 'Coordinator General's Office' • Norman Waterhouse](#)

[State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill 2025](#)

In May / June 2025, the new Office was established under \$4m funding to “streamline government approval processes ... This new legislation anticipates creating a more efficient approach to handling significant projects that involve sectors such as housing and decarbonisation, alongside the AUKUS initiative. By establishing the role of Coordinator-General, the Bill looks to enhance coordination across these sectors, ultimately adding greater capacity to the existing infrastructure.”

Consultation occurred in August 2024.

[Public Consultation: State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill | YourSAy](#)

7.8 Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill

The Bill is pending.

Since the Bill entering Parliament for consideration, the State Government has :

Appointed a Drought Commissioner, Alex Zimmerman

Appointed a Drought Response Coordinator, Jo Collins (PIRSA)

7.9 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

The Bill is pending.

[Statutes Amendment \(Rates—Electricity Generation\) Bill 2025 | South Australian Legislation](#)

Open for questions

Receive any questions or queries from the Board.

8 MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items

The following items have been extracted from the Annual Business Plan for highlights, awareness, endorsement or discussion as part of progressing its identified initiatives.

8.1 Waste & Resource Recovery

For Information

Quarterly Update

A quarterly update is provided at [Attachment 4](#).

Note: a majority of information in the above attachment is quarter 3 data due to inputs from the contractor still coming through for Q4.

Recruitment

Recruitment for the role of Circular Economy and Waste Lead is complete.

An offer has been made to a preferred candidate. More news coming early August.

State Waste Strategy - Submission

MRLGA prepared a submission to the draft strategy and received feedback from the Council's / Committee before submitting.

Key highlights:

- The strategy allows regional Councils to continue to have regional plans and set targets. This is reassuring to see in the state plan (before we embark on a review / update of the regional plan).
- Increased targets are being set for recovery and reporting, and we will need to monitor this to ensure it does not create capacity issues.
- EPA are looking to ban more items from going to landfill and we will continue to monitor this space
- More stewardship style programs are continuing to emerge.

Waste Education (Annual program)

An annual waste education program has been developed in conjunction with five of the Councils participating in the joint waste contract. Councils will receive this work soon through operational channels.

Kerbside Waste Audit Results

MRLGA facilitated a joint kerbside waste bin audit for all five Councils participating in the joint contract. The Waste Education Lead has provided 1-1 information sessions to Councils to read through their results. MRLGA will support Council staff to present this information to elected members.

Green Industries SA's Circular Economy Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

MRLGA has been invited to meet with GISA and Rawtec in the early stages of scoping this project. Councils and RDAMR have been invited to the online meeting on 5 August 2025.

Waste Facility Tours

MRLGA co-hosted another waste facility tour for staff and elected members to Brinkley Landfill & Resource Recovery Shop and Peats Composting - this time with Renmark Paringa Council on 29 May 2025. It was considered a success and received great feedback. We plan to schedule more tours with Councils after winter.

8.2 Public Health & Wellbeing

For Information

Preventive Health Partnership

In June/July we welcomed to the :
Riverland Officer – Danielle Crisci
Murraylands Officer – Zara Male (commences August)

MRLGA will liaise the collaboration to deliver a presentation at the next Board meeting to share insights into this work.

Office of Sport Recreation and Racing Partnership

MRLGA is meeting with the District Council of Loxton Waikerie to reflect on the Connected & Active Communities partnership and assess the performance of the program. MRLGA facilitated the program into the Riverland and will now pursue an expansion of the program into other Councils based on the learnings from the Riverland. This partnership model is intentionally structured between State and Councils (ie excluding MRLGA).

Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan - Review and Update Milestones

A project plan is being developed that will outline key milestone dates for the Committee to embark on and meet the statutory requirements to review and update the Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan for Murraylands & Riverland.

State Public Health Plan (2025-2030) – Strategic Directions Workshop

MRLGA and Riverland Preventive Health Officer attended the SA Health State Public Health Plan – Strategic Directions Workshop on 24 June 2025 in Adelaide. We participated in the invite only session to help guide directions. More information can be found via the links at Item 7.3.

State Public Transport Strategy – Online Consultation Session

MRLGA attended the online consultation session to advocate for a variety of improvements and considerations that may assist with the regional strategy.

8.3 Climate Ready Regions

For Information

Andrew Nesbitt (LGA) and Climate Calvary Consultants are hosting a workshop in the Murraylands and Riverland (Murray Bridge) on 1 August to explore opportunities for regional 'climate' adaptation partnerships. The workshop invite has been extended to MLGA, Councils, RDAMR, Landscape Board, LHN, PIRSA.

The Program exists in metropolitan areas and is considered to work successfully. The metropolitan model is based on council funding contribution.

Outcomes from the workshop will be emailed to Councils and reported at the next Board meeting.

8.4 Water Advocacy

For Information

Commonwealth Water Reform - Resilience Rivers Framework

Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program	\$494m	23/24 to 26/27 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA
Sustainable Community's Program	\$300m	24/25 to 27/28 (4 Years)	NSW / VIC / SA

Dara Frankel (PIRSA) will be a point of contact for the Sustainable Communities Program.

8.5 Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

For Discussion

The Future Drought Fund has entered a new 4 year chapter of funding. The table below outlines the duration of the RDR Program.

Regional Drought Resilience Program	\$67m	25/26 to 28/29 (4 Years)	Nationwide
-------------------------------------	-------	--------------------------	------------

As part of the RDR Program, regions are being provided with the opportunity to apply for:

- \$140k for Implementation Plan
- \$300k for Delivery

The funding is able to be applied for subject to :

- All consortium partners (ie RDAMR, Landscape Board MR and MRLGA) must sign off on all funding proposals and
- The funding must be delivered by November 2025.
- On 24 July we received advice the funding due date has been partially extended, subject to conditions.

Part 1 - \$140k Implementation Plan Funding

Funding

This funding must be used to complete PIRSA's Implementation Plan template (as a minimum).

It can also be used to update/amend regional plans (ie for example addressing the items in the CSIRO review report).

It can be used to fund a position or consultant(s).

Proposal

After an assessment of systems and structures across the region, and a consultation workshop with 34 attendees from government, industry and agriculture, the optimum approach to meeting the objectives of this funding is to employ a 1.0 full time person within region as a Drought Resilience Coordinator (or similar title) for a period of 12 months as a trial. The role will be responsible to complete the implementation plan requirements of the funding and begin efforts to co-ordinate and increase stakeholder engagement for drought resilience projects and benefit realisation.

This proposal aligns to the values and principles of:

- Investing in people within region – creating employment
- Evidence based decisions – completing an analysis of the 'landscape' to identify existing gaps that can be realistically responded too in proportion to the investment.
- Working across silos – it is small and low risk approach towards maturing to a cross-agency response that has the potential to garner greater outcomes than any one organisation could achieve.
- Direct Benefit – the role does not have a strategic responsibility and will have the remit to deliver outcomes to the those impacted from drought.

Considerations:

- Timing
Applications for funding is now open and must demonstrate progress by November 2025 in order to receive the 12 month duration.
- The Plan
It's acknowledged the "MR Plan" was not endorsed by Councils or Boards of the "consortium".
To improve the governance of consortiums, each application for project funding now requires sign off from each consortium member.
- Scalability
The scale of the region is too large to respond too in one project or person (ie via one EFT and \$100k). It is therefore appropriate to take a 'scalability' response (ie work small, prove the concept, demonstrate value and grow.)
- Existing Conditions
The current impacts from drought are impacting most agricultural farms, dependent businesses and communities. The Murrumbidgee and Riverland region is slightly different than other regions, in that our agricultural diversity has major footprints in both dryland and mixed farming and irrigation horticulture. These 'footprints' are experiencing different root cause drivers and if the 'scalability' response is adopted, it will be better to focus this project funding round on dryland mixed farming, and move into irrigated horticulture areas for round 2 (that will coincidentally align with the SA drought hubs new resource structure and the possible emergence of initiatives under the PIRSA / Sustainable Communities Program).

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board:

- *Support the MRLGA Ceo to pursue an agreement with consortium partners that establish a 12 month shared role for drought resilience coordination using the \$140k Implementation Funding.*
- *Support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."*

Moved,

Seconded

Part 2 - \$300k Delivery Funding

Funding

This funding must be used to deliver drought resilience initiatives.

It is not drought response funding and must be used under the FDF Investment Strategy Framework accordingly.

Proposal

A handout will be provided on the day.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to negotiate for equal division of delivery funding to each three consortium partners, and for it to progress drought resilience initiatives that may include themes towards Women in Ag, Youth Preventive Health & Creative Arts for Drought Resilience and solutions for local fodder supply, and report back to the Board on its progress".

Moved,

Seconded

For Information

MRLGA Ceo has :

- Met with the Drought Commissioner, Alex Zimmerman and provided a regional overview of statistics including sharing the Murraylands Drought Survey.
- Attend the Drought Breaker Fundraising event at Adelaide Showgrounds
- Attended the LGA online webinar for the proposed Council Rate Deferral Scheme.
- Met with PIRSA to advocate for an extension of time for the RDRP funding and present our analysis work to support a coordinator role.
- With the support of the Ceo network, liaised with Coorong District Council Ceo, Bridget Mather and District Council of Loxton Waikerie Ceo, David Beaton on all RDRP related matters and next steps.
- Provided multiple online updates for Councils including Mayor, Ceo (and drought affiliated staff) to observe the work being developed and information associated with the funding programs.
- Met with Preventive Health SA Directors on emerging risks being observed on ground by Council staff and community groups.
- Presented the results of the Murraylands Drought Survey to GPSA, Livestock SA, PPSA, Preventive Health SA, RDAMR and Landscape Board staff.
- Provided 'event coordinator' support to the 'drought mapping workshop' held on 30 May with 24 attendees, that resulted in the emergence of a centralized data set of drought resilience projects in the region, as well as stakeholder feedback on priorities.
- Grown strong relationships with SA Drought Hub contacts.
- Liaised with Ceo's and staff of GPSA, Livestock SA, PPSA and PIRSA on drought response and government support packages.
- Completed an analysis of the FDF fund and how to leverage short and long term investment strategy's.
- Provided in kind time to attend and organise meetings associated with the RDRP program and "consortium" partners.
- Will be providing in kind time to develop terms of reference, mou and position descriptions to support RDRP arrangements.

Open for Questions

Receive any questions or queries from the Board.

9 FINANCIAL

9.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

Quarterly Financial Statements are provided at [Attachment 5](#).

A brief summary of the Associations financial position is:

- As of 30 June 2025, the year to date expenditure was \$487,083 equal to 79.1% of the annual budget.
- Reduced expenditure is a result of,
 - > No appointment/recruitment of Administration Support
 - > No appointment/recruitment for part-time Public Health + Wellbeing Co-ordinator
 - > Deferral of the review of the Charter (and associated legal fees)
 - > Home office and equipment is underspent.
 - > Website redevelopment is delayed and rescheduled for 25/26.
 - > Deferral of the Regional Transport Plan update while the State undertook consultation on its strategy.
- The year's low subscription fees were implemented at 1.9%. This culminates into a 9.98% savings back to Councils over the two financial years (ie 24/25 savings at 4.3% and 25/26 savings will be 5.68%).

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 June 2025 with the attached notations listed above.

Moved,

Seconded

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

10.1 Confidential Item

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 its recommended the Board considers the Ceo Performance Review item as confidential pursuant to Section 90(3) (d)(i), (d)(ii), (h), (j)(i) and (j)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, and that the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to agenda item is:
(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Motion

"The Board accept the item be treated as confidential.

Moved,

Seconded

Subject to a carried motion, the Board order that all persons, except (Carron McLeod, Ceo of MRLGA, David Beaton, Ceo of District Council of Loxton Waikerie and Ben Scales, Ceo of Mid Murray Council) be excluded from attendance to receive the Ceo Performance Panels Review.

MRLGA President and Performance Panel chair may speak to the recommendation and receive any questions.

11 2025 / 2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

11.1 Annual Business Plan and Budget

The draft 25/26 MRLGA Annual Business Plan & Budget was released to Councils on 5 May 2025. No objections to the Annual Business Plan and Budget were received, however the following written feedback was received for consideration:

- Mid Murray Council – feedback can be found at [Attachment 8](#)
- Renmark Paringa Council – feedback can be found at [Attachment 9](#) or by visiting the link below (page 7)
[Minutes-Ordinary-Council-Meeting-27-May-2025.pdf](#)

In response to the Mid Murray Council feedback the following is provided:

- It is agreed that the scope of the platform is broad and wide. This approach will be reviewed as part of the subsidiary's strategic planning review process in 25/26.
- All other feedback is noted and does not require amendment to the plan.

In response to Renmark Paringa Council's feedback the following is provided:

Note – the numbering reference in the Council report is different to the MRLGA document, so we have used the page numbers of the ABP.

- Alter the role description (pg2) - the role description on this page is taken verbatim from the 'Strategic Plan'. RPC's suggested re-wording of the role can be considered as part of the review of the Strategic Plan.
- Advocate for better mental health outcomes for regional SA. Not recommend for inclusion in the business plan as a standalone action because its embedded in the MRLGA Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan.
- All other comments are noted and do not require change in the business plan.

For Discussion

Renmark Paringa Council's feedback seeks two actions for inclusion in the annual business plan for the Board consideration:

Housing

Create an advocacy statement supported by evidence and a clear action plan focused on regional infrastructure improvements needed to unlock housing supply and address the current housing crisis.

Financial Sustainability

Include an action to Support Council's advocacy to enhance the financial sustainability of constituent Councils, with a focus on improving Financial Assistance Grant allocations.

Consideration

Adding additional actions/ topics to the business plan is continuing to broaden the scope at MRLGA. It can be added but may be at risk of not being delivered due to resource capacity.

The Board is provided with the following options:

Motion A

"The Board note the feedback from Councils and accept the 25/26 draft Annual Business Plan & Budget as the final version for adoption."

Moved,

Seconded

Motion B

"The Board note the feedback from Councils and recommend amendment to the draft 25/26 draft Annual Business Plan & Budget to include the action for Housing and the action for Financial Sustainability before its finalised as the adopted version."

12 ROUND TABLE

12.1 Berri Barmera Council

Any items from Mayor Ella Winnall

Past items included:

- RLGF has issued a letter to Minister(s) if the River Murray is 'navigable' and are waiting a reply. The reply will be shared with the group.
The background to this issue relates to obstructions in the river and responsibility.
- Office of Small and Family Business
Asked the MRLGA Ceo inquire with Office of Small and Family Business if it would consider altering its (closed) delivery partner program to other
- Bank stabilisation learnings for Ski Club
Asked if others have had success with bank stabilisation to pass back on to its ski club (in terms of products, design, specification or contacts). MRLGA offered to email the Infrastructure committee on their behalf and advise.

12.2 Coorong District Council

Any items from Mayor Paul Simmons.

Past items included:

- Impacts from Drought
- Delivering "Unbreakable Farmer" sessions
- Liaising with the PHN on local issues
- CDC has reviewed its hardship policy
- Impacts of Little Corellas are ongoing and growing, including that on mental health.
- Further work and advocacy is being led by Council in light of the withdrawal of health services, and the following challenges and impacts that ensue. 40 submissions from community have been received to support Councils advocacy

12.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Any items from Mayor Trevor Norton.

Past items included:

- LGA Visit
LGA Ceo, Clinton Jury and a bus of visitors came to DCLW to see a stormwater / cwms project of theirs.
- Changing Places Public Toilet
Promoted a recent project of Council to build a changing places toilet facility. Stated there are only 20 in SA but that they were able to receive 50% funding to build it.

12.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Any items from Mayor Caroline Philips.

Past items included:

- Murraylands Drought Survey
It consulted with Preventive Health about the drought survey and it was a productive conversation around community comments in public surveys. They were supportive of the survey work Council(s) had done.
- 40 Year Anniversary for Farm Fair
Proud to have a farm fair that's been going on for so long, although they may consider scaling it back to 1 day.
- General Practitioner
A Doctor may be coming in April.

12.5 Mid Murray Council

Any items from Mayor Simone Bailey.

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability Round Table
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
- Rating pressure – a story was shared about rate rise pressures to community's and vulnerable (agricultural) areas.
- Foundation SA
- Standpipes Funding
It is anticipating success via a strengthening industry grant program for funding associated with 14 standpipes and getting them automated.
- Regional Partnership Funding
They hope some good news is coming soon.
- LGA OGM
Reiterated that MMC is advocating for adjustments to the FA Grants formula and will be looking forward to the discussion at the upcoming LGA OGM.

12.6 Renmark Paringa Council

Any items from Mayor Peter Hunter.

Past items included:

- Cr Howie advised she is a representative on the SA Recreation and Boating Safety Committee. It has recently released its Strategy (2025-2030)
<https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australia-recreational-boating-safetystrategy>
- Mayor Hunter met with the SA Mental Health Commissioner in January 2025.
- Navigation of the River will table at the next Riverland Forum for discussion.
- Awareness about limitations of Mental Health Services in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Murray, Mallee and Riverland - Local Health Network
They are seeking an update from Wayne Champion / LHN on the status of the 30 recommendation made in the Mental Health Services review.
- Insurances
They remain disappointed in the insurance support and process post flood.

12.7 Rural City of Murray Bridge

Any items from Mayor Wayne Thorley.

Past items included:

- Boating Safety. What groups currently exist and how can be more work be done to improve river safety (particularly in light of events from Australia Day long weekend).
- Seeking to do more that supports the River Murray to be a tourism icon, and subsequently see more tourism products come to market (such as the possibility of river cruising and connecting with Journey Beyond).
- Grants. Concerns expressed about the outlay Councils have to do as part of the process of applying for grants, and the time it is taking to receive outcomes and subsequent funding.
- Expressed interest in having more online sessions.
- Police Commissioner
A recent meeting with the Police Commissioner went very well. Some items discussed included a strategy for river safety and change for the better. This was timely given recent incidents on the river over the public holiday long weekend.
- Federal Grants
They are experiencing long time frames with federal grant programs at the moment.
- MDBA Conference
Promoted the next MDBA conference on 29 and 30 July will be held at Murray Bridge and invited everyone to get their tickets and come along.

12.8 Southern Mallee District Council

Any items from Mayor Ron Valentine

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability – still the main focus for the Council
- Decommissioning Assets
- Dentist closed

13 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT

Position is declared vacant and MRLGA CEO will temporarily assume Chairperson to conduct the nomination process.

Nominations for position of President is called for (and includes self nominations).

A person seeking to nominate may wish to provide a brief explanation (of no more than 3 minutes) as to why they are nominating and the skills, qualifications and experience they bring to the position.

Chair to list each and all nominations for President before commencing voting.

Individual single votes are to be submitted during the meeting via (closed) written ballot papers (provided on the table).

Votes will be collected, read and calculated by the Chair and an independent Council Officer (in private) before the name is announced.

If only one nomination is received, Chair announces the sole nomination and will ask for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

"That Mayor ' x ' is appointed as President of the Subsidiary.

Moved,

Seconded

14 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT

The Chair calls for nominations for position of Vice President (and includes self nominations).

A person seeking to nominate may wish to provide a brief explanation (of no more than 3 minutes) as to why they are nominating and the skills, qualifications and experience they bring to the position.

If only one nomination is received, Chair announces the sole nomination and will ask for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

"That Mayor ' x ' is appointed as Vice President of the Subsidiary.

Moved,

Seconded

15 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2025 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
Board Meeting	Thursday 23 October 2025	TBC
Board Meeting	TBC	
Board Meeting	TBC	

* The 2026 Local Government Election timeline will be researched and the above board meetings scheduled accordingly to avoid care taker or other potential conflicting dates.

Previous General Board Meeting Minutes



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 10 April 2025

Venue Nildottie Town Hall, 4052 Hunter Rd, Nildottie SA 5238

General Board Meeting Minutes

PROGRAM

9:00am	Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee
9:15am	Board Briefing (not open to the public)
10:00am	Meeting Opened
2:00pm	Meeting Closed

*Being a unified local government sector
working in the best interest of the region and our communities*



MINUTES FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Chairperson, President Mayor Caroline Phillips to open meeting.

Welcome Board Members and invited guests.

No apologies communicated.

Acknowledgment of Country

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosures.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A copy of the General Board Meeting Minutes is provided at [Appendix 1](#) (including attendance register).

Motion

"Minutes of the MRLGA General Board Meeting held at the Rural City of Murray Bridge on 6 February 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)** Seconded, **Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)** **Carried**

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

	20 October 2023 - General Meeting	
	Action:	
10	<i>Charter Review and Update</i> <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector MRLGA Ceo to research other lga's voting procedures.</i> <i>Agreed that the item is brought back to the Board Meeting in February 2024.</i> That the MRLGA Board support the proposed changes to the Charter and ask the MRLGA CEO to have them reviewed legally and any feedback brought back to the board before proceeding.	Underway Met with Mr Lachlan Miller on current Charter proposed changes. Temporarily on hold until the LGA constitutional review nears to an end (including its voting processes).
	18 April 2024 – General Meeting	
	Action	
19	That the MRLGA Ceo write to the new Local Government Minister and invite him to meet with the board for a broader conversation about financial sustainability in the Local Government sector. If successful with a meeting MRLGA, Ceo will prepare and agenda and online meeting ahead of time to prepare.	- Invited early June for 25 July Meeting – unable to attend. - Invited to 9 August meeting – unable to attend. - Invited in late March and am working with the advisor on a suitable date.

	* There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the above 2 items remain pending.
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	7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting	
	Action(s)	
1	Roads to Recovery The MRLGA Ceo pursues a conversation about the Roads to Recovery Funding allocations and report back to the Board	- Completed.
2	A.I R&D Application The MRLGA Ceo submits an application to the LGA Research & Development Scheme for an AI project (based on its research to date) and if successful liaise with the MRLGA Ceo network on scope before engaging a consultant.	- No longer an action. (Application not submitted due to scoping issues.)
3	Flood Funding The MRLGA Ceo liaise with Ceo's of flood impacted Councils to understand the scope of shortfall occurring post flood and report back (including the recent \$9m Community and Recreation Asset Restoration Program and insurance claim outcomes)."	- Completed.
4	Policy That draft meeting procedure Option 2 for Appointment of President of the Subsidiary is endorsed by the Board in the interim, awaiting an alternate draft procedure to be presented to the Board at future meeting	- Scheduled Q4.
5	Regional Transport Plan That the MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to investigate alternate methods of a strategic transport plan, gaining feedback from the Regional Transport Committee and Ceo Network on alternatives to a static document before reporting back to the Board.	- To be developed, post the release of the State Transport Strategy.
6	Regional Drought Resilience Plan The MRLGA re-engage PIRSA and Ministers (Scriven's) Office regarding MRLGA's role in relation to MR Plan, Drought Resilience and Drought Response.	- Follow up discussions have happened with PIRSA (not the Ministers office as yet).
7	The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to continue providing coordination and advocacy for (Murraylands and Riverland) regional drought response, and report back to the board on any impact(s) this may have on the Annual Business Plan (on an as needs basis).	- Ongoing (updates have been provided online (at optional meetings) and via email updates.

	Thursday 6 February 2025 – General Meeting	
	Action(s)	
	No motions for action.	
	Question time to Presenter(s)	
8	Item 6.2 – Resilient Rivers Framework An inquiry was made to PIRSA / Peter Appleford if communique from PIRSA on details of the work can be released within the week (ie 7 February '25)? It was advised PIRSA will look into it.	- PIRSA released a 5 pg communique to the Water Working Group on 6 and 7 March '25.
	General Request(s)	
9	Item 5.1 - ALGA Motions Agreed to revisit the options for a motion during an online session in late Feb/early March.	- An online meeting was held on Thursday 20 February '25. No further action.
10	Agreed to list Coastal and Jettie Infrastructure / River Infrastructure on next meeting agenda for group discussion	- Completed.
11	A question was asked if the MRLGA has a plan / timing for if/when the WMRR Strategy will be updated.	- Refer to Item 8.2 (under

		Follow Up).
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Out of session requests:

- MRLGA Ceo to invite the Federal Minister for Agriculture to visit the region.
Update: A verbal invite was extended in November 2024, followed by a check in March, but no commitment at this time.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note the actions completed and those underway from the previous meetings.

*Moved, **Mayor Peter Hunter (RPC)** Seconded, **Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)** **Carried***

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 Nationally ALGA

- **Current Policy Work**
- **Advocacy**
 - o **Federal Budget – FA Grants**
 - o **Funding Emergency**
 - o **"Put Our Community's First" campaign.**
 - o **2025 National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra 24-27 June 2025**
Theme : National Priorities Need Local Solutions

Notes:

- [DCKEM advised it would take on the query from the group if LGA can put motions to ALGA.](#)
- [Discussion was had about the need for drought to be treated as a natural disaster.](#)

5.2 South Australia LGA

- o **Topical Update**
- o **LGA Strategic Plan**
- o **Local Government Elections : Voting proposed to be mandatory**
- o **LGA Events**
- o **Consultation on Model Financial Statements**
A link to information on the consultation is below:
[Consultation on 2025 Model Financial Statements | LGA South Australia](#)
The MRLGA seeks the Board's endorsement for it to submit a brief proposal, asking that Regional Local Government Associations be exempt from preparing annual Model Financial Statements, and be required to prepare General Purpose Financial Statements.

Motion

"The MRLGA Board endorse the MRLGA Ceo to submit feedback on 2025 Model Financial Statements, asking the Subsidiary be required to submit General Purpose Financial Statements as part of an annual audit and report process.

*Moved, **Mayor Trevor Norton (DCLW)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Simone Bailey (MMC)***

Carried

5.3 Regional SAROC Update

- **SAROC Rep Update**

Representatives Mayor Caroline Phillips and Mayor Simone Bailey provided a verbal update from the meeting held on 27 March in Whyalla.

Notes:

- Summarised two motions that were proposed to the committee regarding drought.
- MMC summarised its motion to the Board formally seeking support to alter the 30% per cap measurement of the FA Grants formula. MMC advised it was unclear if the Board supported the motion and is waiting on confirmation.
- Advised there was some discussion around a skills based board.

- **Drought**

Notes:

- Mayor Paul Simmons shared an update on drought.
- Discussed aspects of what Council's role is during drought response.
- Outlined the rate deferral proposal being scoped at this time, and that it could be achieved with minimal investment from the State. Discussed LGFA's possible role in this.
- Highlighted that there may be an education piece around how much Council rates farmers pay in regional areas.
- Revisited existing topics including stamp duty reduction, rate deferral and collection of landscape levies.
- Many farmers are working through 'how to fund' this year's crop.
- Applications to rebate programs (like the \$5k infrastructure) is oversubscribed.
- MR region is still the highest at RBS.
- A key challenge at the moment for some agricultural community's is 'when' (ie what year) would they be able to recover from this?

- **Coastal / Jetty / River Infrastructure**

Notes:

- Councils will explore a representative to sit on South Australian Boating Facilities Advisory Committee (SABFAC)
- Discussion was had around the awareness and understanding of the program.
- Discussion was had if the un-spent funds from the (flood) Council Community & Recreation Asset Restoration Program (CC&RARP) could be used to support gaps.

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

6.1 Landscape Board

Notes:

- Andrew Meddle, Ceo has resigned from the role and will have his final working day on 19 May.

6.2 PIRSA Visit

- Dara Frankel, Principal Regional Advisor, Murraylands & Riverland from PIRSA attended the meeting and was available for discussion and questions.

Notes

In addition to the items listed in the written update:

- *Regional Visit*
PIRSA Ceo and Management team is visiting the region and primary industries around 17 May.
- *Drought Hub in Murraylands*
A board member tabled interest to have a drought hub in the Murraylands.
- *Water Recovery*
Feedback was provided to Ms Frankel that:
 - o 'information sharing' has been a challenge about water recovery, and could the regional report be updated to reflect this critical piece of work.

- the water group was still unclear about what can be divulged. It's a significant piece of work and the community is still asking for the status and details.
- There is concern legally about where we stand about information sharing and how this interacts with obligations under the LG Act.
- The working group hasn't seen the plan proposed.
- How the plan is released will be important.
- It was agreed, this feedback would be relayed back into PIRSA.
- *Drought Round Table*
A board member asked if there will be a second round table. MRLGA (Carron) and PIRSA (Dara) to discuss and follow up on.
- *Abalone Road Signs*
A board member raised the new roads signs and how long they will be there for.

- 6.3 **RDAMR**
- 6.4 **Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)**
- 6.5 **Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event**
- 6.6 **Murray Darling Association**
- 6.7 **SA Drought Hub (Loxton node)**
- 6.8 **One Basin CRC (Loxton)**

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note and accept the regional stakeholders written reports and/or minutes shared."

Moved, Mayor Trevor Norton (DCLW) Seconded, Mayor Peter Hunter (RPC) Carried

7 State Strategy's

7.1 Murray Mallee Regional Plan

Notes:

- A statement was made that past growth does not predict future growth and their Council is considering working with PLUS about this.
- Discussion was tabled if there could be a joint response from MRLGA. The general response was that each Council is best to assess its issues and submit a response individually if it chooses.

7.2 Other State Strategy's

8 MRLGA Regional Overview

- 8.1 **MRLGA Strategic Plan (2020-2025)**
- 8.2 **Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)**

Motion

"The MRLGA Board delegate its power to President, Vice President and Ceo to finalise a letter to Minister Scriven about future governance and delivery model associated with the Regional Drought Resilience Plan in light of additional funding coming from the State and Federal Government."

Moved, Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB) Seconded, Mayor Peter Hunter (RPC) Carried

8.3 Draft Flood Observations Report

Motion

"The MRLGA Ceo is to share a copy of the draft flood observations report with SERM, DPC as well as advise SERM, DPC to contact Councils for their reports too."

Moved, Mayor Ron Valentine (SMDC) Seconded, Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)

Carried

- 8.4 **Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (2021 – 2026)**
 - o Regional Reporting
[Copy of the quarterly report is attached. Noting this is still under development.](#)
 - o Regional Waste Stream Map
[Copy of the Map is attached.](#)
 - o Regional Kerbside Review for Councils
- 8.5 **Public Health & Wellbeing Plan (2021 – 2026)**
- 8.6 **Regional Transport Plan**
- 8.7 **Water Advocacy Paper**
- 8.8 **Regional Digital Connectivity Plan**
- 8.9 **LGA / Climate Ready Regions Project**

9 FINANCIAL

9.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

Quarterly Financial Statements were provided at [Appendix 9](#).

Motion

“That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 31 March 2025 with the attached notations listed above.

*Moved, **Mayor Ron Valentine (SMDC)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Simone Bailey (MMC)***

Carried

10 ROUND TABLE

10.1 Berri Barmera Council

[Information and updates included:](#)

[Office of Small and Family Business](#)

[Asked the MRLGA Ceo inquire with Office of Small and Family Business if it would consider altering its \(closed\) delivery partner program to other](#)

[Bank stabilisation learnings for Ski Club](#)

[Asked if others have had success with bank stabilisation to pass back on to its ski club \(in terms of products, design, specification or contacts\). MRLGA offered to email the Infrastructure committee on their behalf and advise.](#)

Past items included:

- RLGF has issued a letter to Minister(s) if the River Murray is ‘navigable’ and are waiting a reply. The reply will be shared with the group.
- The background to this issue relates to obstructions in the river and responsibility.

10.2 Coorong District Council

[Mayor Paul Simmons left the meeting earlier at 12:30noon to attend another meeting.](#)

Past items included:

- Impacts of Little Corellas are ongoing and growing, including that on mental health.
- CDC has reviewed its hardship policy
- Further work and advocacy is being led by Council in light of the withdrawal of health services, and the following challenges and impacts that ensue. 40 submissions from community have been received to support Councils advocacy
- Prolonged Dry Conditions/ Drought
- Delivering “Unbreakable Farmer” sessions
- Liaising with the PHN on local issues

10.3 District Council of Loxton Waikerie

[Information and updates included:](#)

LGA Visit

LGA Ceo, Clinton Jury and a bus of visitors came to DCLW to see a stormwater / cwms project of theirs.

Changing Places Public Toilet

Promoted a recent project of theirs to build a changing places toilet facility. Stated there are only 20 in SA but that they were able to receive 50% funding to build it.

Past items included:

None.

10.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Information and updates included:

General Practitioner

A Doctor may be coming this month (ie April).

40 Year Anniversary for Farm Fair

Proud to have a farm fair that's been going on for so long, although they may consider scaling it back to 1 day.

Murraylands Drought Survey

It consulted with Preventive Health about the drought survey and it was a productive conversation around community comments in public surveys. They were supportive of the survey work Council(s) had done.

Past items included:

None

10.5 Mid Murray Council

Information and updates included:

Standpipes Funding

It is anticipating success via a strengthening industry grant program for funding associated with 14 standpipes and getting them automated.

Regional Partnership Funding

They hope some good news is coming soon.

LGA OGM

Reiterated that MMC is advocating for adjustments to the FA Grants formula and will be looking forward to the discussion at the upcoming LGA OGM.

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability Round Table
- River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
- Rating pressure – a story was shared about rate rise pressures to community's and vulnerable (agricultural) areas.
- Foundation SA

10.6 Renmark Paringa Council

Information and updates included:

Mental Health Commissioner – Visit

Had a successful meeting with the Commissioner, and LGA President Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross was in attendance.

Murray, Mallee and Riverland - Local Health Network

They are seeking an update from Wayne Champion / LHN on the status of the 30 recommendation made in the Mental Health Services review.

Insurances

They remain disappointed in the insurance support and process post flood.

Past items included:

- Cr Howie advised she is a representative on the SA Recreation and Boating Safety Committee. It has recently released its Strategy (2025-2030) <https://www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au/south-australia-recreational-boating-safetystrategy>
- Mayor Hunter met with the SA Mental Health Commissioner in January 2025.
- Navigation of the River will table at the next Riverland Forum for discussion.
- Awareness about limitations of Mental Health Services in regional, rural and remote areas.

10.7 Rural City of Murray Bridge

Information and updates included:

Police Commissioner

A recent meeting with the Police Commissioner went very well. Some items discussed included a strategy for river safety and change for the better. This was timely given recent incidents on the river over the public holiday long weekend.

Federal Grants

They are experiencing long time frames with federal grant programs at the moment.

MDBA Conference

Promoted the next MDBA conference on 29 and 30 July will be held at Murray Bridge and invited everyone to get their tickets and come along.

Past items included:

- Boating Safety. What groups currently exist and how can be more work be done to improve river safety (particularly in light of events from Australia Day long weekend).
- Seeking to do more that supports the River Murray to be a tourism icon, and subsequently see more tourism products come to market (such as the possibility of river cruising and connecting with Journey Beyond).
- Grants. Concerns expressed about the outlay Councils have to do as part of the process of applying for grants, and the time it is taking to receive outcomes and subsequent funding.
- Expressed interest in having more online sessions.

10.8 Southern Mallee District Council

No updates tabled.

Past items included:

- Financial Sustainability – still the main focus for the Council
- Decommissioning Assets
- Dentist closed

11 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2025 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
AGM	Thursday 31 July 2025	Murray Bridge
Board Meeting	Thursday 23 October 2025	TBC

Attendance Register

10 April 2025

MRLGA BOARD MEMBERS

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Mayor Caroline Phillips, President and Chair
District Council Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Mayor Trevor Norton
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Mayor Simone Bailey
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Mayor Peter Hunter
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Mayor Wayne Thorley
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Mayor Ron Valentine

MRLGA

Ceo	Carron McLeod
Circular Economy & Waste Lead	Rob McKay
(Waste) Education Program lead	Gina Handby

CEO NETWORK

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Deputy Mayors

-	
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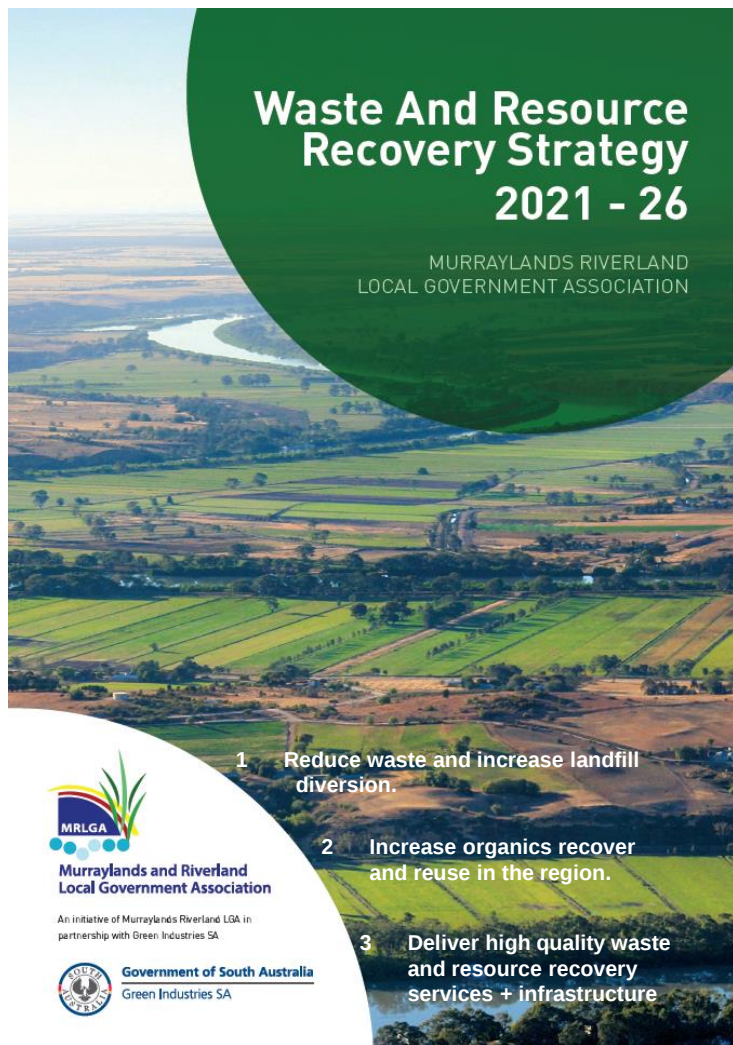
ATTENDING & INVITED GUESTS

PIRSA	Dara Frankel
SA Cross Border Commissioner	Kelly-Anne Saffin

APOLOGIES

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MRLGA : Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (2021-2026) : **Regional Update**



Our Mission

To work together to deliver high quality, cost effective waste and resource recovery services that minimise contributions to landfill and create value through investigation, engagement, innovation and investment.

		Targets	Project Status
	Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% from '21 baseline	25.1 %	 Underway 1.1 Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services
	50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bins (regional av. based on LGA population).	35.9 %	
	65 % diversion across all materials managed by councils (kerbside + transfer stations - regional avg based on LGA pop). Data collection is pending.	TBC	 Completed 1.2 Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings.
	All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection. 5 of 8 Councils provide food and garden organics as kerbside service.	5 / 8	
	Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50 %.	18.48 %	 To Come 1.3 Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure. Early conversations have begun as part of the kerbside review project.
	Use education + technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams (Comingled recycling <12%) (FOGO <2%	Notes	
	Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually.	Notes	 Underway 1.4 Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals.
	Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Underway	
	Provide improved services within the current cost per household.	TBC	 Completed 1.5 1.5 Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling
	Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	100%	

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% (from 2021 GISA baseline)											
5%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Target		MRLGA Actual				Score
	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Person	Per Household	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)	418 kg/py	1019 kg/py	408 kg/py	937 kg/py	-	-			392.00 kg/py	886.00 kg/py	
(1% reduction) 2022	-	-	-	-	388.0 kg/py	877.1 kg/py			-	-	
(2% reduction) 2023	-	-	-	-	384.1 kg/py	868.2 kg/py	24,508,260	36,063	-	679.60 kg/py	27.75 %
(3% reduction) 2024	-	-	-	-	380.2 kg/py	859.4 kg/py	25,010,060	36,413	-	686.84 kg/py	25.12 %
(4% reduction) 2025					376.3 kg/py	850.5 kg/py					
(5% reduction) 2026					372.4 kg/py	841.7 kg/py					

Individual Council Data	2023			2024			Difference between 2023 and 2024
	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Annual kg / Per Household / %
BBC	3,777,110	5,422	696.63 kg/py	3,773,940	5,445	693.10 kg/py	- 3,170 kg / + 23 h. / + 3 kg/ph
CDC	1,297,520	2,268	572.09 kg/py	1,655,590	2,319	713.92 kg/py	+ 358,070* kg / + 51 h. / + 141.83 kg/ph
DCKEM	212,080	298	711.67 kg/py	211,640	304	696.18 kg/py	- 440 kg / + 6 h. / - 15.49 kg/ph
DCLW	3,688,480	5,411	681.66 kg/py	3,708,280	5,457	697.54 kg/py	+ 19,800 kg / +46 h. / +15.88 kg/ph
MMC	3,221,450	6,308	510.69 kg/py	3,306,180	6,322	522.98 kg/py	+84,730 kg / +14 h. / +12.29 kg/ph
RCMB	8,297,120	11,749	706.19 kg/py	8,341,740	11,936	698.87 kg/py	+44,620 kg / +187 h. / -7.32 kg/ph
RPC	3,322,290	3,804	873.36 kg/py	3,322,240	3,826	868.33 kg/py	-50 kg / +22 h. / -5.03 kg/ph
SMDC	720,800	803	897.63 kg/yy	701,000	803	872.97 kg/py	-19,800 kg / 0 h. -24.66 kg/ph

Notes:

- SA Reg Ave is taken from GISA Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22 : <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/documents/GISA-StatewideKerbsideReport-2021-22.pdf>
- 2023 and 2024 figures are based on actual kerbside collection data only. Recorded weights are calculated against Service Entitled Property numbers to provide per person and per household averages .SA Outer Regional Average for number of persons per dwelling is 2.2 per household (ABS).

- MRLGA Actual - No data currently available for calendar year 2022.
- MRLGA Baseline is (24500000KG / 73000) from the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- GISA has not released a kerbside service report for 2023, 2024.
- CDC – Universal 3 bin system incorporating FOGO bin introduced in Oct. 2023

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bin (regional average based on LGA population).

↑50%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-	8,500	35 %	39%	28%	13%	39%	10%	45%	36%	14%
2022					-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023					12,352	50	8,879	36.2	40.8	28.94	8.8	39.7	10.8	44.7	41.2	10.6
2024					12,505	50	8,971	35.9	38.9	40.6	7.9	37.2	12.5	43.9	39.9	10.4
					Differential		+92	-0.3	- 11.1%	- 9.4%	-42.1	- 12.8%	-37.5	- 6.1%	-10.10	-39.6
2025					-	-	-	-								
2026					-	50 %										

Note:

1. More data will come in the next quarterly report that will include individual breakdown of quantities for each Council against this target.

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

65% diversion across all materials managed by councils. (kerbside and transfer stations – regional average based on LGA population).																
↑ 65%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-										
2024					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

UPDATE :

Reporting on this target is currently unavailable due to the following challenges:

- There are over 26 infrastructure sites across that manage and control waste streams. The method, frequency and format for reporting 'all waste' is not consistent from current inquiries.
- Some of these sites are owned and operated by commercial or external organisations/contractors.
- The requirements for reporting to EPA are only activated for sites that manage over 10,000t.
- The complexity of this reporting also relates to how long material is stored at a site (ie the year it is received may not be the year it is re-used / recovered).

To accurately report on this target, the following waste streams will need to be recorded, reported and measured. MRLGA is working with stakeholders in the 'eco-system' to see if this can be overcome.

- Bulk residual waste
- Bulk Recyclable (cardboard, drums, timber, packaging)
- Bulk Greenwaste/Organics
- Scrap metal including whitegoods
- Mattresses
- E-wastes
- Commercial and Demolition waste (concrete and rubble, soil, fill, and mixed aggregates)
- Hazardous waste (tyres, batteries, paint, waste oil, septage, household chemicals, asbestos, CCA treated products)

MRLGA Waste infrastructure	Landfills	Transfer Stations	Hardwaste Services	Compost facilities
BBC	Nil	1 (CLWY)	Yes - collection	Nil
RPC	Nil	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
LWDC	Nil	2	Yes - drop off	Nil
MMC	1	10	Yes - drop off	Nil
CDC	Nil	4	Yes - drop off	Nil
RCMB	1 (AHRWMA)	1	Yes - collection + drop off	1 (PEATS)
DCKEM	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
SMDC	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil

The table above shows the early research done to gather the number infrastructure sites/points that receiving waste (that would be used to measure and report on this target).

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection.							
5 / 8	General Waste (weekly)	Recycling (f)	FOGO		Township SEP's	Rural SEP's	Estimated average FOGO going to landfill (applying a rate of 41%).
			Township (f)	Rural (f)			
BBC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	3512	1944	
CDC	✓	✓	FOGO	FOGO	2167	169	
DCKEM	✓	✓ (m)	✗	✗	304 *		79.9 t
DCLW	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2594	2883	
MMC	✓	✓	✗	✗	2139	4212	1,205 t
RCMB	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	9956	2073	
RPC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2780	1043	
SMDC	✓	TBC	✗	✗	815 *		257.6 t
Total - 1,542 t							

Comparison to South Australian Councils	SA Metro Councils	SA Regional Councils	Total
1 Bin System	-	2	2
2 Bin System	-	15	15
3 Bin System	16	33	49
Unknown	-	2	2
Total	16	52	68

Definitions:

SEP	Service Entitled Premises (ie Dwelling)
FOGO	Food Organics & Garden Organics (ie food + garden scraps can go into this bin).
(f)	Fortnightly
(m)	Monthly
t	Tonnes

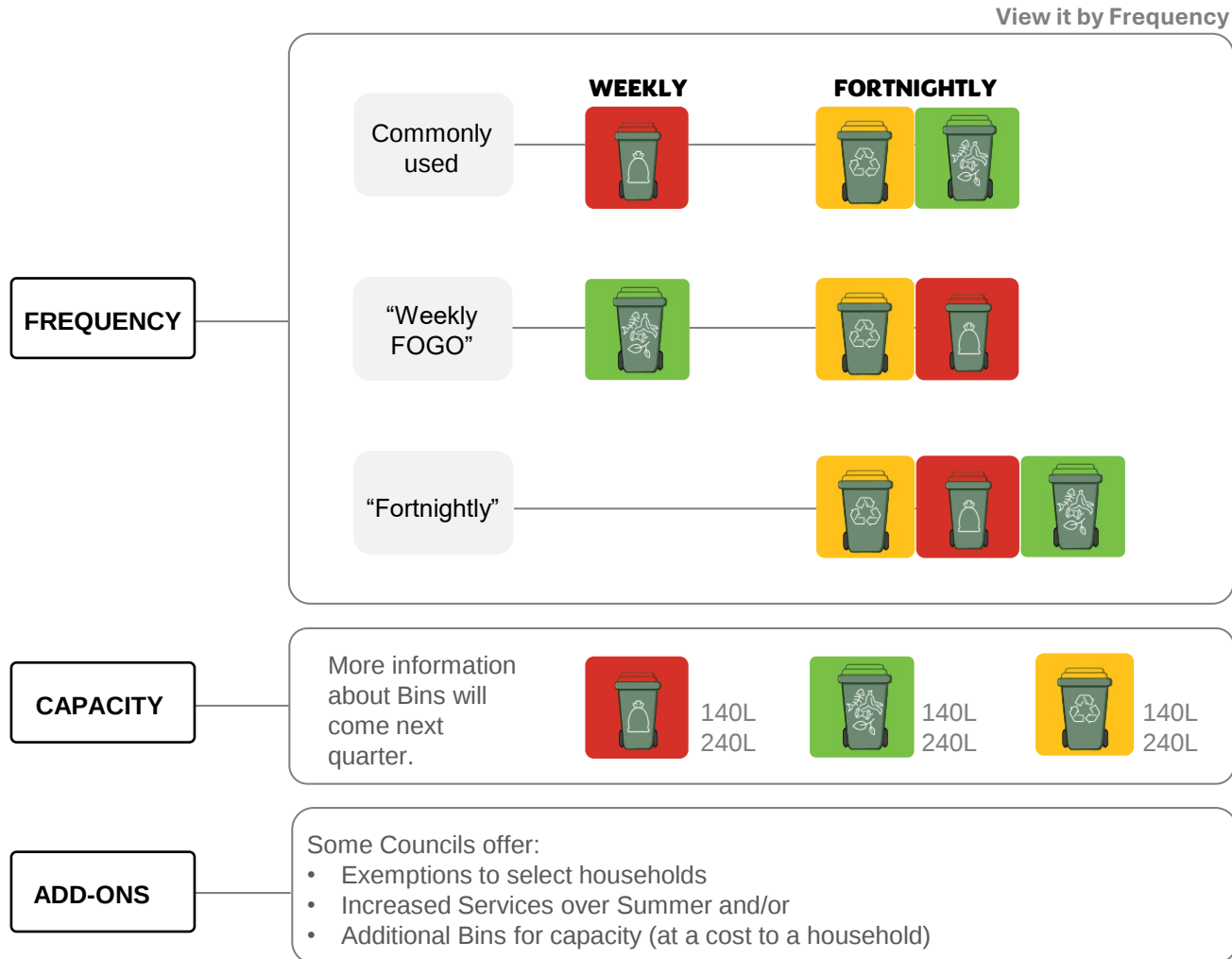
Notes:

- (*) indicates the number is not reported separately
- 3 Bin system status as of Jan 2025.
- Bin Composition audits are being conducted across 6 MRL: A Council's being in March/April 2025. The results will assist to identify further landfill diversion opportunity's, as it relates to this target.

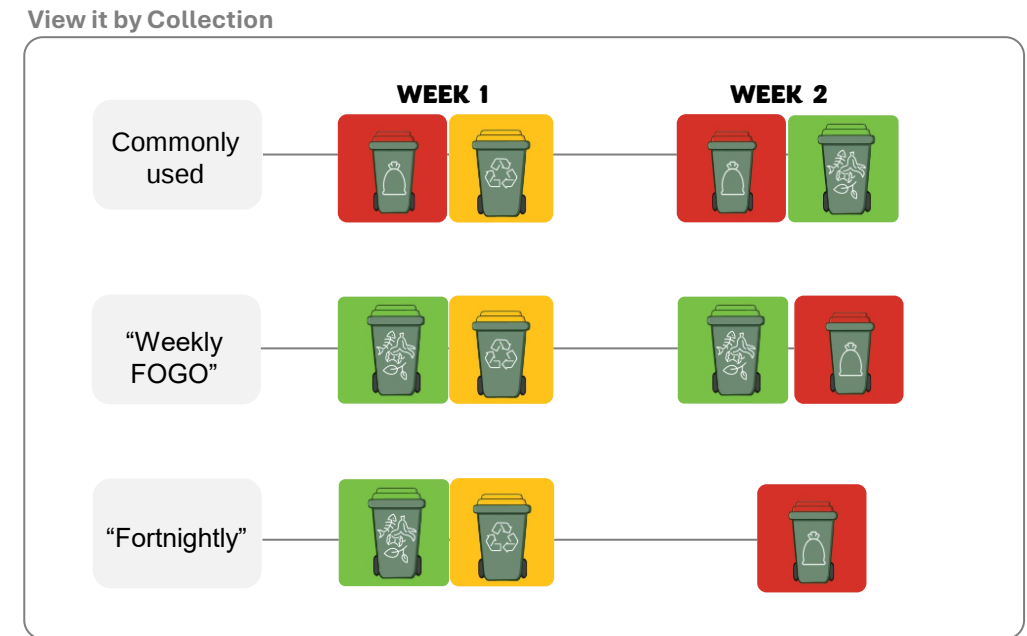
Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Information about Kerbside Waste Service Models:

The table below shows the 3 common kerbside waste service models in South Australia.



OR



Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Background

The table below shows the different kerbside waste service models across each regional South Australian Council for 2025.

SA Regional Councils	TOWNSHIP AREAS							Comment
	Weekly			Fomightly			Monthly	
	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO		
Adelaide Plains Council				✓	✓	✓		
Alexandrina Council				✓	✓	✓		
Barunga West Council				✓	✓	✓		
Berri Barmera Council	✓				✓	✓		
City of Mount Gambier	✓				✓	✓		
City of Port Lincoln	✓				✓			PILOT Underway
City of Victor Harbor				✓	✓	✓		
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council				✓	✓	✓		
Coorong District Council	✓				✓	✓		
Copper Coast Council				✓	✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Whyalla	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Ceduna	✓				✓			
District Council of Cleve	✓				✓			
District Council of Coober Pedy								
District Council of Elliston	✓				✓			
District Council of Franklin Harbour	✓							
District Council of Grant				✓	✓			
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	✓						✓	
District Council of Kimba	✓						✓	
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	✓				✓			
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Mount Remarkable	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	✓				✓			
District Council of Peterborough	✓				✓			
District Council of Robe	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Streaky Bay	✓							
District Council of Tumby Bay								
District Council of Yankalilla				✓	✓	✓		
Kangaroo Island Council				✓	✓	✓		General Service Summer Time Service
Kangaroo Island Council		✓	✓	✓				
Kingston District Council	✓				✓			
Light Regional Council	✓				✓	✓		
Mid Murray Council	✓				✓			
District Council of Mount Barker	✓				✓	✓		
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	✓				✓		✓	
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	✓				✓	✓		
Northern Areas Council	✓				✓			
Port Pirie Regional Council			✓	✓	✓			

	TOWNSHIP AREAS						
	Weekly			Fortnightly			Monthly
	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	
Regional Council of Goyder				✓	✓	✓	
Renmark Paringa Council	✓				✓	✓	
Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓				✓	✓	
Southern Mallee District Council	✓				✓		
Tatiara District Council	✓				✓	✓	
The Barossa Council	✓				✓	✓	
The Flinders Ranges Council	✓				✓		
Town of Gawler	✓				✓	✓	
Wakefield Regional Council				✓	✓	✓	
Wattle Range Council	✓				✓	✓	
Wudinna District Council	✓						
Yorke Peninsula Council	✓				✓		✓

Note:

1. Port Pirie Council has been offering weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling for 12 months.
2. Port Lincoln City Council & Mt Barker City Council are/about to conduct a pilot trial for weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling.
3. Adelaide Hills has conducted three pilot trials across three towns on varying service levels.
4. City of Holdfast Bay has run weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling since Sept 2020.
5. Grey cells indicate either a) no service or b) no online information about the service.

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50%.																		
50%	SA <u>Metro</u> Avg.		SA <u>Regional</u> Avg.		MRLGA <u>Diversion Goal</u>		MRLGA <u>Diversion Actual</u>		BBC		CDC		DCLW		RCMB		RPC	
					t / py	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)							-	16.32										
2022						23.05			-		-		-		-		-	
2023						29.79			770	20.4	101	7.8	698	18.9	2261	27.3	754	22.7
2024						36.52		18.48	713	18.9	395	23.9	631	17.2	2176	26.2	706	21.3
					Differential			31.5%		31.1%		26.1		32.8		23.8		28.7
2025						43.26												
2026						50.00												

- Note:**
- The following Councils are not listed in the above table as they do not provide a 3rd waste bin for FOGO:
 - Mid Murray Council
 - District Council of Karoonda East Murray
 - Southern Mallee District Council

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Use education and technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams:	Education MRLGA has recruited an Education (Waste) Program Lead for the five Councils (in the joint waste service contract). A 2025 program is under development and a draft will be out for feedback soon. Education is also being integrated with the Kerbside Service Review Project. A 2025 Sustainability Calendar will be out soon for Councils. New Waste Fleet Vehicles have arrived with campaigns printed on carriages. A program of kerbside bin composition audits is being coordinated by our Education (Waste) Program Lead across 5/8 councils which will provide updated baseline data to accurately inform education content directly related to the MRLGA councils. A sixth council (MMC) has engaged the same auditors to carry out the process in its jurisdiction. Results will be shared. MRLGA is engaging with internal and external stakeholders across the MRLGA and leveraging state waste education resource opportunities such as WHICH BIN (GISA) to provide generate resource materials, support to council agencies, collaborate and create efficiency and consistency of messaging which align with key W&RR strategies.					
	Baseline	2023	2024	2025	Notes	
	Comingled recycling < 12 per cent	13% Gisa Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available	No data available. Note - state average is est. 15%	Data Pending Audit Results.	Note: GISA and EPA will release a state wide report in April 2025 showing updated contamination rate data. MRLGA will have bin composition audit data across at least 6 member councils by June 2025.
	FOGO <2 per cent	2% Gisa Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available.	No data available.	Data Pending Audit Results.	
	Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually	Technology For those councils engaging Solo Resource Recovery as their waste services contractor, waste collection vehicles deployed have installed industry standard WasteTrack In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) software. WasteTrack equipment is installed by City of Onkaparinga, FRWA, and across Solo Resource Recovery operations nationally. The system utilises real time camera links from vehicle to SOLO Depot. Allows footage to be stored and reviewed for 30 days. System provides GPS monitoring of vehicle location routing, diversion requests, and productivity. Records exact time and location of bin lift and controls illegal service presentations. Allows issues such as contamination to be monitored and logged through onboard driver scrutiny of items entering truck hopper each time a lift occurs. Allows reporting of bin repair, kerbside presentation issues, and records spillage remediation. Note: This technology should not be confused with "smart bin" technologies. Smart bin technologies are available to councils in the form of purpose-built public space bin enclosures which are fitted with solar powered compaction mechanisms linked to a central control via WIFI which asset in regulating efficient servicing frequencies . RFID technologies (also not smart bin technology) are available on new bin fleet. RFID technologies primarily asset with matching a bin to a property and asset managing bin inventory. Field research is occurring with City of Onkaparinga with their 2-stage residual / FOGO sorting processing. Network meeting with Greenhill Energy is being scheduled to consider their place in the emerging market and processing practices.				
		Report to MRLGA Quarterly Reporting to be developed for inclusion in quarterly Board Meeting Agenda's.				

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Infrastructure Pursuant to the Strategy, MRLGA has commenced conversations with the three Riverland Councils operations teams in regards to regional waste infrastructure initiatives. This includes the proposed concept of a regional composting facility in the Riverland.		
Provide improved services within the current cost per household	Improved Services for Households The process to review kerbside waste services across the region has begun. (7/8 Councils are participating). MRLGA is engaging with the operations side of Councils as the review (report) progresses. SMDCC is not currently having the review done as it considers its overall waste management service model and infrastructure longevity. Extensive data on regional waste management is being compiled to provide evidence-based approaches to proposals for system changes and improvements. Bin composition audits are underway which will inform more to support the review. And we are compiling case study's that include information from other regional councils. As part of the Alternative Kerbside Waste Service Review, the MRLGA is modelling the financial impacts of proposed alternative kerbside collection that are aimed at improving landfill diversion rates. This modelling analysis includes information on the cost per household for prevailing kerbside systems, and two proposed alternative kerbside service options. This information provides a means to assist councils to drill into service cost components and charges and manage forecasting processes. At this stage calculators are under development for the five councils who participated in the joint procurement initiative for the waste services contracts. For those councils participating we have commenced our waste facility tours program which take participants through waste stream flows, highlighting issues associated with current practices and opportunities for improving the sustainability. The MRLGA has reviewed current regional waste-stream flow logistics and identified aggregation and bulk handling aspects which feed into cost per household within the waste services contracts. Investigations into alternative flows that are aimed at reducing aggregation and bulk haulage costs have commenced.		
Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	Purpose	Membership	Comment
	MRLGA Waste Management & Resource Recovery Committee <i>The Committee oversees the delivery of the Strategy.</i>	8 Regional Councils 1 x Representative from each Council (Director / General Manager)	Reports to MRLGA Board
	Joint Waste Service Contract Performance Management Working Group <i>The Working group review the quarterly performance of the contract and discuss opportunity's for innovation and improvement.</i>	5 Regional Councils(each who participated in the joint waste contract) - Berri Barmera Council - Coorong District Council - District Council of Loxton Waikerie - Renmark Paringa Council - Rural City of Murray Bridge	MRLGA has a centralised model to: - Review Claims - Performance Management Reporting and Convening - Quarterly Reporting (coming soon) - Waste Audits - Waste Education

Kerbside Collections Waste-Stream flows



Average distance travelled by a truck load of waste from municipality to final destination (after collection). (Bulk haulage only - not including local collection routes)

Council	Residual Waste	Comingled Recycling	Organics /FOGO	Total Km
BBC	272 Km	289 Km	248 Km	809 Km
RPC	276 Km	299 Km	252 Km	827 Km
LWDC	283Km	300 Km	259 Km	842 Km
RCMB	7 Km	119 Km	31 Km	157 Km
MMC	33 Km	148 Km	-	181 Km
DCKEM	4Km	191 Km	-	195 Km
SMDC	60 Km	242 Km	-	302 Km
CDC	50 Km	154 Km	55 Km	259 Km
Estimated Annual Km's travelled	77127 Km	47596 Km	33502 Km	158225 Km

Total amount of kerbside waste transported and managed across MRLGA region in 2023 CY - 24,536.85 Tonnes

Region	Council	Residual Waste	Comingled Recycling	Organics /FOGO	Tonnes
Riverland	BBC	2234.94	772.44	769.73	3777.11
	RPC	1952.42	615.9	753.97	3322.29
	LWDC	2222.33	767.89	698.26	3688.48
	Tonnes	6409.69	2156.25	2221.96	10787.88
Murraylands	RCMB	4586	1449.87	2261.25	8297.12
	MMC	2873.58	347.87	0	3221.45
	DCKEM	193.36	18.72	0	212.08
	SMDC	644.1	76.7	0	720.8
	CDC	922.01	274.03	101.48	1297.52
Total Tonnes					24536.85

Total amount of kerbside waste transported and managed across MRLGA region in 2024 CY - 24,935.88 Tonnes

Region	Council	Residual Waste	Comingled Recycling	Organics /FOGO	Tonnes
Riverland	BBC	2304.32	756.16	713.46	3773.94
	RPC	1996.93	618.57	706.74	3322.24
	LWDC	2325.47	750.87	631.94	3708.28
	Tonnes	6626.72	2125.60	2052.14	10804.46
Murraylands	RCMB	4676.55	1488.57	2176.62	8341.74
	MMC	2873.58	347.87	0	3221.45
	DCKEM	194.83	16.81	0	211.64
	SMDC	628.30	72.70	0	701.00
	CDC	983.40	276.70	395.49	1655.59
Total Tonnes					24935.88

Landscape Board, Murryalands and Rivlerand - Update

Update for the MMLGA

Landscape Board supporting Drought Response

Funded by the South Australian Government's \$73 million Drought Support Package, the landscape board are supporting a rabbit program led by PIRSA. The rabbit program offers free rabbit control to farmers in drought-affected areas. Through the Drought Total Grazing Pressure project, farmers in the Murraylands and Riverland can access:

- Free warren ripping
- Free 1080 oat bait– to approved farmers and as seasonal conditions permit

This is a joint effort between PIRSA and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

To register interest, contact Josh Rosser on 0409 062 431 or email joshua.rosser@sa.gov.au.

Weed Warriors of our Waterways

The Murraylands and Riverland District teams completed the Weed Warriors of our Waterways project. The 3 year, Landscape Priority Fund project saw a total of 578.6 kms of river corridor surveyed from the border to Wellington. An additional 21,786ha of wetlands, creeks and tributaries also benefitted from surveillance of priority pest plants.

Across the life of the project, 7,545.7 ha benefited from control works, targeting those areas identified through survey. A number of these areas were treated multiple times over the three years to break the back of infestations. See attachments 1 and 2 for survey and treatment efforts.

Another Murray Crayfish Release

A further 250 adult and juvenile Murray Crayfish were released into the River Murray in SA on the 11th of July. The project is important for the conservation of this species, which is now EPBC listed and has been extinct in SA for over 40 years. It is the outcome of a great partnership between the landscape board, Nature Glenelg Trust and River Murray & Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.

Regional NRM Planning

The first 5-year Regional Landscape Plans were approved in 2021 and under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, they must be reviewed, and a revised plan developed every five years.

For the first half of this calendar year the landscape board has been undertaking an evaluation of the current Regional Landscape Plan. Councils were invited to provide input through an online survey, as well as being invited to partner workshops to review the evaluation results and begin developing what needs to change and be strengthened in the plan for the next 5 years. The landscape board is now analysing the initial feedback from that consultation and will be undertaking further targeted consultation with First Nations and youth.

The draft Plan is scheduled to be developed by December 2025 and formal consultation on that draft will begin in the new year.

Annual Business plan for 25/26

The landscape board's Annual Business Plan provides an overview of how allocated funds will be invested throughout the 2025-26 financial year. The landscape board expects to spend \$18,881,064 this financial year. In addition to water and landscape levies, the landscape board attracts investment through government grants and industry partnerships, reinvesting these funds to support the health of ecosystems in the region. To download a copy of the board's latest business plan, visit <https://flow.landscape.sa.gov.au/BusinessPlan>.

Woody Meadows trial in Murray Bridge

The MR Landscape Board has partnered with the Rural City of Murray Bridge to host a climate resilient native planting trial in Murray Bridge. A verge site has been planted and is being maintained by the council on Swanport Road in Murray Bridge. The trial will be monitored by both the council and the landscape board to evaluate the success of the planting and share the learnings on water efficiency, maintenance needs and longevity. The landscape board is developing a dedicated project page on their website, to share project progress and highlights over the five-year trial.

Climate Change Animations

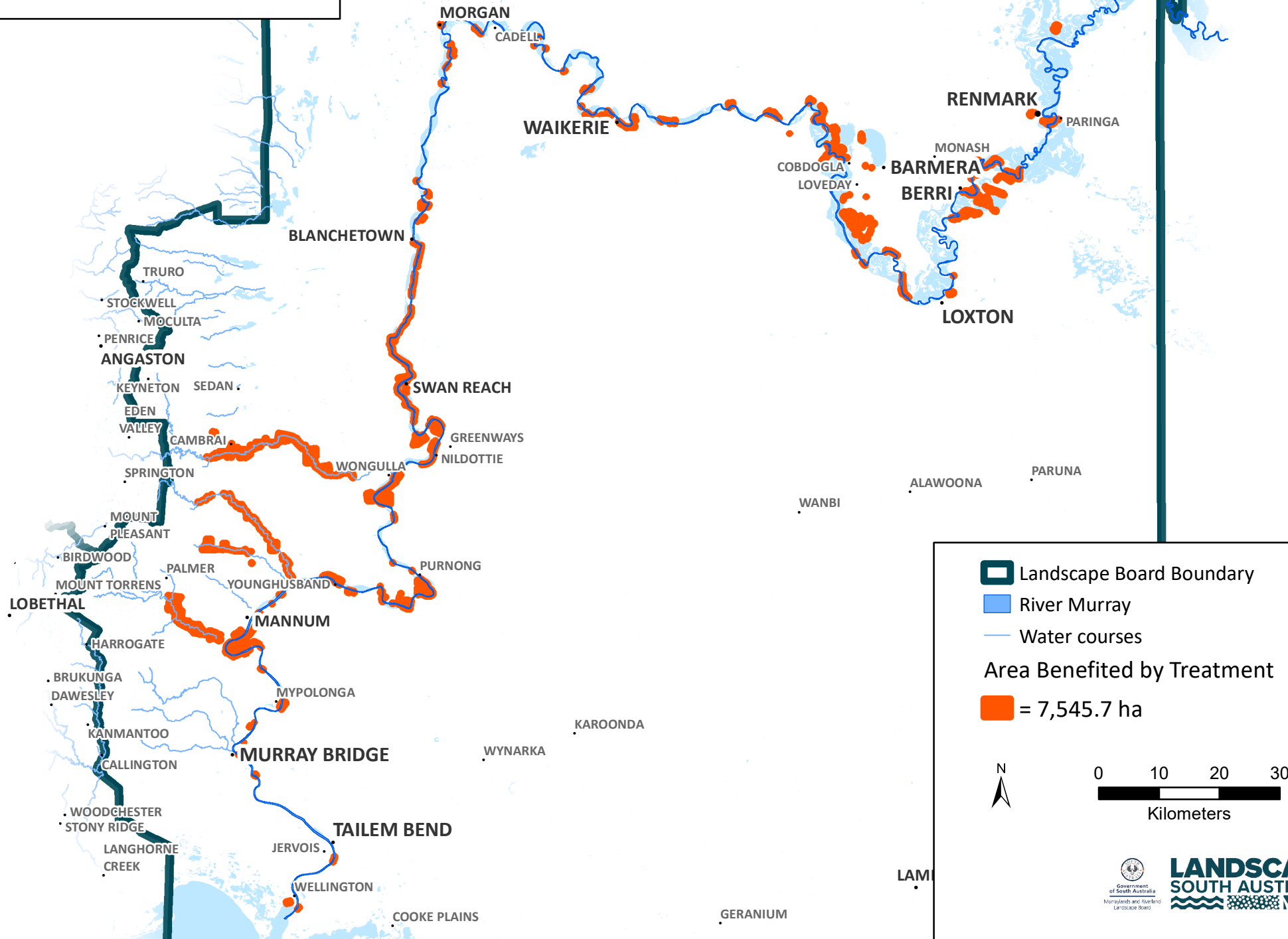
The landscape board has been working on a climate change strategy for the Murraylands and Riverland region for the past two years. The landscape board has developed two climate animation films to share the impacts of our shifting climate and the climate positive partnership projects which the board is delivering. The second, and slightly longer, animation film invites the community to find out more and to get involved. The animations will be released on the board's website and on social media by the end of July 2025.

General Manager Recruitment

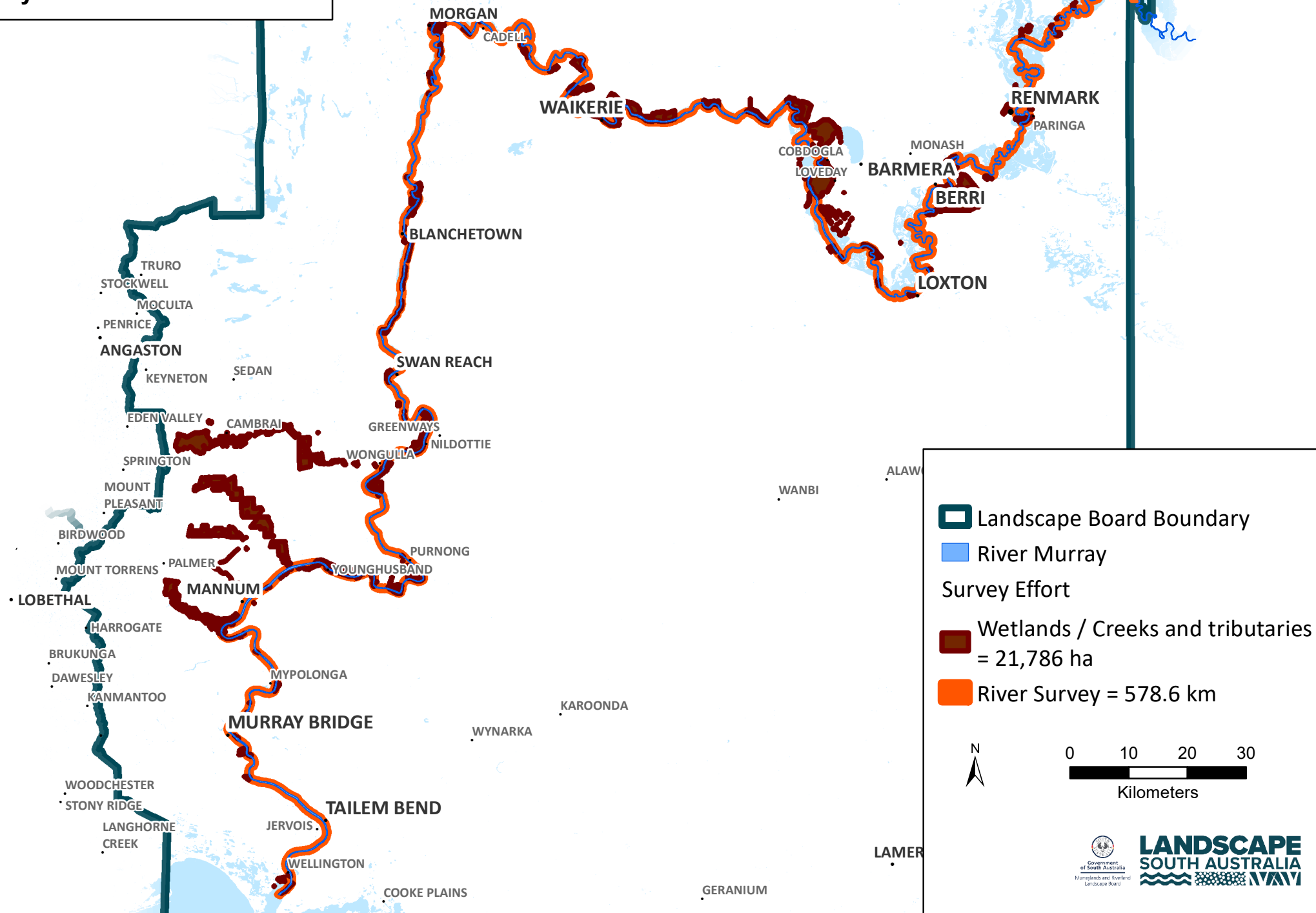
With the resignation of Andrew Meddle, the landscape board has been undertaking an extensive recruitment process for the General Manager role. The landscape board is in the final stages of this recruitment process with an offer having been made. An announcement will be made shortly on the employment of the new General Manager.

To keep up to date with the latest information from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, subscribe to [Murraylands and Riverland Landscape News](https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/subscribe). Distributed weekly, The News includes updates on our work across the region, along with upcoming events, funding opportunities and more! <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/subscribe>

Weed Warriors of Our Waterways - Treatment Areas



Weed Warriors of Our Waterways - Survey Effort



Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 6 – Meeting Minutes



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Minutes

Date: 20 June 2025
Time: 10.30am – 12noon
Location: Rural City of Murray Bridge

1. WELCOME MEETING OPEN 10:35am

1.1 Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and work. We respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection as the custodians of this land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today.

2. ATTENDANCE

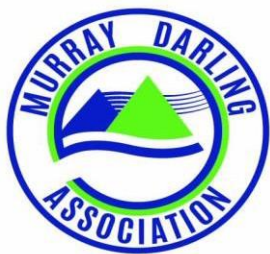
2.1 Membership (**Attachment 1**)

2.2 RSVP's & Apologies

MDA National Representatives		
Mark Lamb	Murray Darling Association	X
Tim Zeller	Murray Darling Association	Via Teams
Region 6 Representatives		
Mayor Wayne Thorley	Rural City of Murray Bridge	X
Cr Airlie Keen	Rural City of Murray Bridge	Apology
CEO Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge	X
CEO Bridget Mather	Coorong District Council	X
Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council	Apology
Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council	X
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council	X
Cr Milli Livingston	Alexandrina Council	Via Teams
CEO Andrew MacDonald	Alexandrina Council	X
Cr Carol Schofield	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
Victoria MacKirdy	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
CEO Anne Champness	Tatiara District Council	X
Mayor Liz Goossens	Tatiara District Council	X
Mayor Ron Valentine	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology
Cr Luke Kennedy	Southern Mallee District Council	
CEO Jason Beaton	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology
Individual Members		
Adrian Pederick, MP JP		Apology
Colin Grundy		Apology
Executive Officer		
Samara McKenzie		X

2.3 Guests

- Kate Bartlett, Murray Darling Basin Authority
- Richard Mintern, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office - Apology



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

-
- Mark Lamb, MDA

2.4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

- NIL

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from Ordinary Meeting 28 February 2025 (**Attachment 2**)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of 28 February 2025 be endorsed as a true record of the meeting.

MOVED: Mayor Liz Goossens

SECONDED: Cr Brenton Qualmann

CARRIED

4. STANDING REPORTS

4.1 **Region 6 Chair Update**

Chair provided verbal update

- **Introduction** of current regional activities
- **Sustainment** of ongoing initiatives
- **Reform/Realignment** related to zones
- Early discussion on future regional structures and collaboration

4.2 **MDA CEO Update**

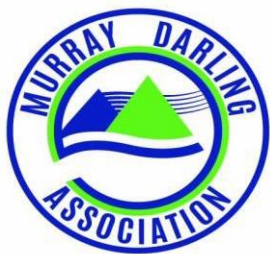
Mark Lamb provided verbal update and Region Chair Report as attached

- Update and highlights from board meeting/election in March 2025
 - ALGA Conference in Canberra 24-27 June
 - Constitution modified
 - Update on National MDA Conference – Griffith 29
 - Members are invited to sit in on board meeting of National Conference
 - <https://www.mda.asn.au/events/2025natcon>
- The MDA has secured accommodation discount with Quest Hotel using code:
GCOUNCIL
- Region 6 Report and any Motions for National Conference due by end of August

ACTION: Book accommodation for National Conference ASAP

4.3 **Member Updates**

- Brenton raised a question regarding current concerns around algae bloom in the region.
 - Heather Barclay (RCMB) provided an update on key priorities and planning activities within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.
 - Bridget Mather noted that it is likely only a matter of time before another dry event occurs, reinforcing the importance of regional preparedness.
 - Mayor Thorley spoke to the ongoing challenges of population growth management, highlighting the need for coordinated funding and planning across regions and the broader Murray-Darling Basin.
 - Michael Scott raised questions and concerns regarding Myponga Reservoir, particularly in the context of ongoing economic and population growth and implications for future water security.
-



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

4.4 Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Richard Minter - Apology NIL

4.5 MDBA Update Kate provided verbal MDBA update via Teams

- Algae bloom detected for the first time in an isolated section; being monitored.
- SA Water has issued a blue-green algae warning.
- Basic water needs are still being met – water supply remains sustainable for now.
- A 12-week public consultation process is upcoming from MDBA, with regional engagement planned.
- River Reflections 2025 will be held in Murray Bridge in July – members are encouraged to attend. Kate encouraged attendees to sit with someone they don't know to support cross-sector information sharing.
- Expressions of Interest for public attendance to River Reflections received 25 applications.
- Since 19 May, 19 documents related to Basin planning have been released; first track is now available online.
- 200 megalitres has been purchased at McQuarrie as part of the Aboriginal Water Entitlement Program.
- Opening water allocation is currently set at 100%.

ACTIONS:

- Kate to send her report to Samara.
- Samara to attach the report to the minutes and include River Reflections Conference ticket details for members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That all Reports be received.

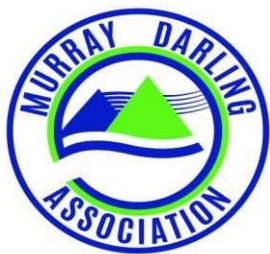
MOVED: Cr Michael Scott **SECONDED:** Mayor Liz Goossens **CARRIED**

6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

6.1 Strategic Focus

At the meeting held 28 February 2025 Region 6 resolved that the focus for 2025-26 be:

- a) Economic Development
 - b) Advocacy and Membership
 - c) Environment
 - d) Human water needs/water movement
- a) In relation to economic development, the chair provides an update on a recent visit to China aimed at benefiting the region.
In relation to environment, the Mayor will lead a discussion on Drought.
- Brenton raised the importance of ensuring sustainability of water and infrastructure in the context of regional growth.
 - Mayor Thorley reinforced the need for an ongoing and proactive conversation around growth, supported by a clear road map and actionable strategic planning.
 - Emphasis was placed on the importance of:
 - Securing appropriate funding,
 - Implementing existing strategic plans effectively,



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

-
- Pursuing long-term sustainability through a direct and coordinated approach,
 - Creating opportunities for enterprise and industry development.
 - Mayor Thorley posed a key question for consideration:
 "Is this growth going to create a diverse and resilient community?"
 - Discussion highlighted the challenges associated with the transferability of water, particularly in balancing growth needs with long-term environmental and resource sustainability.

MOTION proposed by Heather Barclay - That the CEOs within Region 6 work collaboratively to prepare a draft report for the National MDA (Murray-Darling Association), representing Region 6, to be presented at the early August meeting.

CARRIED

ACTION CEOs to present the draft report at the next MDA Region 6 meeting.

National MDA Conference Location – Comment from Cr Michael Scott

- Cr Michael Scott suggested consideration be given to hosting a future National MDA Conference at a non-river location within South Australia, to demonstrate the broader impacts of the river system on more remote and inland areas.

Mayor leads verbal discussion on recent China visit with Ms Barclay – ‘Shandong International Friendship Conference’.

. China Visit

- Mayor Thorley provided a verbal update on the recent visit to China with CEO Heather Barclay, attending the Shandong International Friendship Conference.
- The conference explored potential for a future Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with support from the South Australian Government and other stakeholders.
- Key points:
 - A total of 34 Local Government representatives were in attendance.
 - Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) was the only Australian council invited to participate, and one of only three invited from the Oceania region.

Question from Liz Goosman

- Liz asked where the idea to visit China originated.
- Heather Barclay responded that:
 - The RCMB and surrounding region had been identified as a key area for business growth.
 - A delegation from Dezhou visited RCMB in July 2024, followed by RCMB receiving an official invitation to attend the Shandong conference in January 2025.
 - Heather encouraged other councils to "piggyback" on the existing RCMB relationship with Dezhou to explore opportunities.
 - Noted that this could be a topic for further CEO collaboration and discussion through the MRLGA.

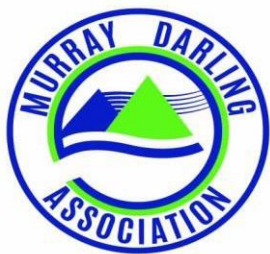
6.2 MDA National Motion Preparation

The Mayor will lead a discussion for items for consideration at the National Conference to be held in Griffith in September 2025.

- Item covered in previous discussion

6.3 Actions from previous Ordinary Meetings

- Nil
-



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

RECOMMENDATION:

The meeting noted the updates to the Action List (**Attachment 3**)

MOVED: Liz **SECONDED:** Mark Scott **CARRIED**

OTHER BUSINESS

11. **NEXT MEETING**

10:30am on Friday 15th August 2025, Coorong District Council

12. **CLOSE**

12:19pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Rural City of Murray Bridge for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 6.



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP As of November 2023				
Position	Name	Council	Executive Member	Voting Member
Council Representatives				
Chair	Mayor Wayne Thorley	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	Cr Airlie Keen	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	CEO Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge		
	CEO Bridget Mather (Proxy)	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council		
	Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Milli Livingston	Alexandrina Council		
	CEO Andrew MacDonald	Alexandrina Council		
	Cr Carol Schofield	City of Victor Harbor		
	Kathy Hayter (proxy)	City of Victor Harbor		
	CEO Anne Champness	Tatiara District Council		
	Mayor Liz Goossens	Tatiara District Council		
	Mayor Ron Valentine	Southern Mallee District Council		
	Cr Luke Kennedy	Southern Mallee District Council		
	CEO Lachlan Miller (proxy)	Southern Mallee District Council		
Individual Member				
	Adrian Pederick, MP JP			
	Colin Grundy			
	Warren Jacobs			
	Melissa Rebbeck			
Life Members				
	Graham Camac			
	Phillip Moore			
	Barry Featherstone			
	Frank Tuckwell			
Executive Officer				
	Samara McKenzie	Rural City of Murray Bridge		



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Action List / Items for Monitoring

Region 6 Outstanding Actions			
Date / Item Number	Description	Responsible Person	Status
Feb 2023 4.6	Heather to bring Report back on flood recovery	Heather Barclay	ONGOING
June 2023 4.4	Melissa Rebbeck to send follow up email to Greg Burns regarding alleged illegal dams.	Melissa Rebbeck	ONGOING
Nov 2023 10	Coordinator to send an email to SA Water to seek an Executive Member of staff at the next MDA Region 6 meeting	Executive Officer	Executive Officer to reach out to SA Water
Nov 2023 4.1	Coordinator to send an email to Dr Alec Rolston, Director of the Goyder Institute to speak at a future MDA Region 6 meeting (August)	Executive Officer	Tour of CLLMM be incorporated in upcoming Region 6 OGM in November
Sept 2024 9	Inter-region meeting with Regions 4, 5, 6 ,7, and 8 early next year (2025) in Adeladie. The theme of the meeting will be 'Policy on how limited MDB water is to be used'.	Executive Officer	
20 June 2024	CEOs within Region 6 work collaboratively to prepare a draft report for the National MDA (Murray-Darling Association), representing Region 6, to be presented at the early August meeting.	CEO's	



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Action List / Items for Monitoring

Items for Monitoring Motions from 2023 MDA AGM		
Item Number	Description	Status
5.6	Meeting Water Demands with Less Water CARRIED (A Keen/J Modica) That the MDA advocates for the Murray Darling Basin Plan 2.0 to address meeting water demands with less water.	The MDA has submitted 11 recommendations to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023. The MDA was invited to present to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee regarding its submission to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023
5.7	Membership Value Proposition CARRIED (A Keen/A Tilley) MDA to build on the policy and position materials to establish the value proposition of MDA membership, particularly to non-riparian Councils.	Advocacy and engagement efforts are ongoing
5.8	Reduction of River Water Reliance for Non-Riparian Councils CARRIED (A Keen/A Tilley) To release funds to non-riparian Local Governments for engineering solutions to reduce reliance on the Murray-Darling Basin. For example, the Off-Farm Efficiency Program is only available where a water licence exists, and water can be returned directly to the River. However, many Councils utilise SA Water from the River Murray but still need a water license to use the program.	The MDA has submitted 11 recommendations to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023. The MDA was invited to present to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee regarding its submission to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023
5.9	Tailem Bend – Keith – Bordertown Pipeline CARRIED (A Keen/J Chaffey) Advocate for support and investment to extend the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown to meet domestic water use requirements.	The MDA has sent correspondence to: Hon Susan Close MP (22 NOV 23) Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP (22 NOV 23) Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP has indicated that he deferred



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Action List / Items for Monitoring

Items for Monitoring Motions from 2023 MDA AGM		
Item Number	Description	Status
		further correspondence to Hon Susan Close MP
5.10	On-Farm Efficiency Opportunities CARRIED (A Keen/P Simmons) a) That the MDA requests the National Water Infrastructure Grid and the Australian Government to fund opportunities for water efficiency using On-Farm Efficiency Funds. b) Opportunities to reduce demand on SA Water supplied water derived from the River Murray for Upper Southeast South Australia Stock and Domestic water use.	The MDA has submitted 11 recommendations to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023. The MDA was invited to present to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee regarding its submission to the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023
5.11	RAMSAR Wetland Funding CARRIED (A Keen/A Tilley) Region 6 Moves that the MDA write to the Federal Minister (and potentially the State Minister) to seek continued funding for the implementation of the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin program and opportunities for increased protection and financing of all Murray Darling Ramsar Wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin.	The MDA has submitted recommendations to the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation following the Riverina Regional Community Forum workshops. This Motion was raised among the recommendations Advocacy and engagement efforts are ongoing.
5.12	Levee Bank Maintenance CARRIED (A Keen/J Chaffey) Region 6 moves that the MDA advocates to the Australian and State Governments to provide leadership, review levee bank management, and seek advice on what is proposed to implement regular assessment, maintenance, and enhancement of the levee bank system.	The MDA has submitted recommendations to the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation following the Riverina Regional Community Forum workshops. This Motion was raised among the recommendations Advocacy and engagement efforts are ongoing.
5.13	Riverbank Slumping CARRIED (A Keen/M Magin) The MDA calls on the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide leadership with quantifying the impact, management planning and amelioration fund to address riverbank slumping and river bank undercutting in impacted regions.	The MDA has submitted recommendations to the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation following the Riverina Regional Community Forum workshops. This Motion was raised among the recommendations Advocacy and engagement efforts are ongoing.



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Action List / Items for Monitoring

Items for Monitoring Motions from 2023 MDA AGM		
Item Number	Description	Status
5.14	European Carp Control Measures CARRIED (A Keen/J Forrester) The MDA calls on the Federal Government to implement all other European Carp Control measures and develop a second plan to manage Carp. Region 6 Moves that the MDA write to the Federal Minister a) to seek advice on whether any non-biological European Carp Control measures could be implemented Basin wide and b) to develop and deliver a Community-level Education Program Basin wide for ethical and responsible European Carp fishing and removal and c) to provide funds for Local Councils to install fishing infrastructure and fish disposal methods in their local communities.	The MDA has engaged with Federal Government Representatives and are exploring ongoing correspondence/efforts to further the Motion.
5.15	Review of Constitution CARRIED (A Keen/J Chaffey) That the MDA Board review the Constitution for fairness, equity, good governance and to support ongoing financial sustainability.	The MDA Board is scheduled to review the MDA Constitution at Board Meeting 424 and will prepare a Draft Constitution for Review by MDA Members.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

May 2025

Mark Lamb

m.lamb@mda.asn.au

Contents

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1. Introduction

In addition to ‘business as usual’ issues, we have been focusing on key strategic deliverables, including:

- **Membership Growth:** Expanding our member base
- **Circular Economy Projects:** Finalising and implementing key projects
- **Conference and AGM:** Organising and delivering the MDA Conference and AGM
- **Financial Management:** Overseeing financial activities
- **Motions:** Addressing past motions and preparing new ones for the AGM
- **Advocacy:** Continuing our advocacy efforts on various fronts

Governance

During Board Meeting 428, conducted on 18th March 2025, the Board elected our new President and Chair, Cr Shari Blumer from Griffith as well as the Vice President and Vice Chair, Geoff Dobson from Shepparton. In addition to the overall Board, we are delighted to work with the new leadership team at the MDA.

The election of the new Leadership Team comes at a critical time for the Murray-Darling Basin, with the Basin Plan Review in full swing, and the new Murray-Darling Basin Plan, Basin Plan 2.0, around the corner. It is more vital than ever that communities and community groups, councils, as well as businesses and industries are being represented at a State, and National, scale to ensure a socio, economic, and environmental balance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

2. Membership

We have actively driven membership growth through targeted campaigns, including personal meetings with non-members. These discussions, particularly with local government areas (LGAs), have proven effective. As a result, new councils have joined, with additional meetings planned for other regions. This proactive approach is central to our ongoing efforts to expand our network.

We have actively driven membership growth through targeted campaigns, including in person meetings with non-members across NSW, South Australia, and Victoria, with an engagement and advocacy drive planned for Queensland and South Australia in the coming months.

These discussions, particularly with local government areas (LGAs), have proven effective in showing the value, and benefit of Membership and of our advocacy efforts. As a result, new councils have joined, with additional meetings planned for other regions.

This proactive approach is central to our ongoing efforts to expand our network.

3. Advocacy

Our advocacy initiatives are robust, focusing on strengthening key relationships and amplifying our presence:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We have strengthened ties with the Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), with recent discussions on recurrent funding and water buybacks.
- **Media Presence:** Our conference has attracted significant media attention, with MDA representatives securing speaking opportunities at high-profile events such as the Water Symposium and Drought Resilience Hub.
- **Event Representation:** We represented the MDA at the MDBA Leaders' Forum and River Reflections Conference. We continue to pursue further engagements with state ministers.
- **White Paper:** The Murray Darling Association is currently working on a White Paper that will represent the views of the Basin Communities and will form a core focus in ongoing advocacy and engagement with State and Federal Ministers, particularly the Federal Water Minister following the Federal election. This paper will address the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, what has yet to be achieved, as well as put forth recommendations for the review of the Basin Plan 2.0.

Our ongoing advocacy campaigns and engagement efforts have been proven, and continue, to be an effective means of uniting the voices of Basin communities, providing a strong, and visible, position on key Basin stressors and priorities.

4. Partnerships, collaboration and engagement

We are building strong partnerships with key organizations, including CSIRO, SQNNNSW, and One Basin CRC. These collaborations have yielded positive feedback and potential for further work:

- **CSIRO:** We are collaborating on Circular Economy projects. Recent feedback has highlighted our achievements, noting that we accomplished in three months what would have taken CSIRO years. The MDA is capitalising on this partnership to further expand Basin engagement. The MDA and the CSIRO are currently undergoing discussions on further collaborations, particularly regarding managed aquifer recharge.
- **One Basin CRC:** Our ongoing engagements continue to be productive, and through this engagement the MDA plans to operate a programme that seeks to educate communities as a result.
- **SEGRA:** We were invited to deliver a keynote address at their National conference, reflecting the growing recognition of our work. Of particular note, the MDA's efforts in interstate collaboration between members were of key interest to SEGRA.
- **MDBA:** The MDA was given an incredible opportunity to engage with the whole of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's staff in Canberra, discussing Basin engagement, and key issues and stressors for Basin communities. This offered the opportunity to raise noted stressors including Water Management, Disaster recovery and resilience, Water Purchasing, Industry, Business and Community Impacts, Water Quality and Pricing, as well as the importance of community engagement and Transparency.

Feedback has been very positive in terms of the potential of these relationships, providing further opportunities for additional engagement and collaboration on projects across the Basin.

5. CSIRO and the Circular Economy

In collaborating with the CSIRO Land and Water Division, we have focused on strategic growth areas related to land and water challenges.

This partnership aims to explore Circular Economy solutions, particularly around waste repurposing. Meetings held in May and June provided valuable insights and will inform future collaboration. CSIRO's management has praised our efforts, acknowledging the speed and effectiveness of our work.

Following the successful completion of initial projects, we are exploring new opportunities, including further Circular Economy work with CSIRO and local councils, such as a recent meeting with Shepparton Council and an upcoming meeting with Toowoomba Council.

6. Key Meetings and Engagements

Date	Event/meeting	Location
6/2/25	CSIRO: Meeting with Toowoomba Regional Council	Held Virtually
10/2/25 – 14/2/25	One Basin CRC Leadership Retreat	Canberra, ACT
28/2/25	PAC Meeting CRC50: Collaboration for Transformation	Held Virtually
3/3/25	Meeting with Zara Lowien, NIC	Held Virtually
11/3/25 – 12/3/25	Meeting with the MDBA	Canberra, ACT
13/3/25	Meeting with Roger Knight: PFAS	Held Virtually
14/3/25	GSCC Circular Economy Strategy: External Stakeholder Engagement Session	Held Virtually
2/4/25	One Basin CRC Webinar: Regional Water Management – values, priorities	Held Virtually
17/4/25	Meeting with Andrea Walton	Held Virtually
30/5/25	Repairing Australia's Inland Rivers and Groundwater Systems	Held Virtually
8/5/25	PAC engagement meeting, One Basin CRC engagement	Held Virtually
8/5/25	One Basin CRC Leadership Retreat: Follow through meeting	Held Virtually

7. 80th National Conference and AGM

Supporting its ongoing advocacy and engagement, the Murray Darling Association will be hosting its National Conference this year in **Griffith NSW, 29 September - 2 October 2025!**

This year the National Conference will be focussing on collaboration in our Basin, our communities, and our environment, delving into pressing issue that have been identified by our Members as key points of concern with a risk of impacting Basin communities and industries in the years ahead.

The conference will feature keynote speakers and panel sessions including industry heads, State and Federal Government Ministers and representatives, as well as scientists and educators presenting on topical issues that affect the Murray-Darling Basin water resources and communities.

With the Murray-Darling Basin Plan set to be reviewed, representation of Communities and Community Groups, Councils, and Businesses and Industries is vital in ensuring the socio, economic, and environmental balance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Offering the opportunity for communities, councils, education entities, as well as businesses and industries across multiple days, the Murray Darling Association's National Conference provides the pivotal platform to engage in discussion with Government and representatives from across the Murray-Darling Basin, to advocate to, and inform, Government policy and to develop the foundations for meaningful collaboration across communities, Government Areas, and States for the betterment of the Basin and its communities.

The Murray Darling Association has engaged State and Federal Water Ministers, their Shadow Minister counterparts, as well as Government Departments, and leaders in Science and Education fields to speak at its National Conference and engage with attendees.

Focussing on Basin Collaboration in our communities and our environment, Speakers will be presenting on topical issues that affect the Murray-Darling Basin water resources and communities.

The Murray Darling Association invites you to consider attendance to the 81st National Conference, to collaborate, and be a part of the Basin's water solution – to join the conversation, inform future policy, and to engage with the scientists, educators, and leaders of our time.

Join us in engaging and networking with Businesses, Industry, Local, State, and Federal Government from across the Basin and tackle the big issues of the Basin!

Engage in discussion and network with State and Federal Government, Departments heads, Agencies, Authorities, Educators, and Basin Leaders!

Engage with the innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time to tackle the big issues of the Basin, and network with peers and experts over dinner and discuss technical issues with industry and department heads at our Conference exhibition booths.

To find out more, and to register, go to www.mda.asn.au/events/2025natcon.

To find out more about the Murray Darling Association, go to www.mda.asn.au or follow us on social media.

8. Engagement Report on the benefits of membership:

We are actively driving a membership campaign to attract new members and retain existing ones, with a particular focus on engaging councils from the Northern Basin. Key developments include:

- **New Members:**
 - Expansion of membership in the Northern Basin, with meetings planned to integrate more councils.
 - Establishing a **membership engagement road trip** in Queensland's Region 12.
- **Membership Benefits:**
 - **Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact:** Enhancing community partnerships, participating in events, and accessing valuable networks.
 - **Support for Councils:** Assisting councils with strategic priorities, raising their profile, and advocating on their behalf.
 - **Community Enhancement:** Promoting collaboration to improve social, environmental, and economic outcomes.
 - **Environmental Advocacy:** Focusing on sustainable management and scientific research.
 - **Economic Development:** Supporting regional growth and water security initiatives.
 - **Council Value:** Providing valuable services and contributing to the overall development of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Our achievements demonstrate the MDA's pivotal role in influencing policy and supporting Basin communities.

With over 167 councils in the Murray-Darling Basin, the ongoing partnership between Councils and the Murray Darling Association elevates local and regional issues and priorities to the state and federal level providing national recognition of local priorities.

Membership to the MDA delivers social, economic, and environmental benefits to each community by creating partnerships, participating in events, and accessing networks and services that align with and support all Community plans, in the areas of Community, Environment, Economy and Council.

We know that councils and the local government sector are increasingly resource challenged and are looking for services, relationships and partnerships that assist in achieving your council's and your region's strategic priorities.

Water, land management, energy and community wellbeing are front and centre of almost every council's priorities. A strong relationship between council and the MDA provides opportunities to:

- partner with councils and regional groups in providing local case studies and experience to support regional and national positions and advocacy strategies.
- raise the profile of your council and the local government sector through MDA's partnerships with the Commonwealth.
- present strategically aligned priorities, objectives, and advocacy to state and federal governments.
- leverage regional efficiencies and Basin-scale capability and positions.

Benefits to your community.

The MDA fosters a culture of community collaboration and leadership development to improve social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Working together with member councils and our regions, we achieve policy change and ensure local knowledge informs the national dialogue on water reform, land management, environmental sustainability, leadership development and education, and regional economic diversification.

Council's participation at MDA region and national meetings builds regional relationships and elevates the community's priorities to the state and federal level, informing decisions and outcomes that impact your local area.

Benefits to your environment.

There is no future on a dry riverbed. At the core of our vision is a strong emphasis on science and education to inform policies for the sustainable management of Basin resources to ensure a healthy and prosperous future.

The MDA's vision, which drives our strategic and operational direction, is for *local government and communities to work together to achieve a healthy, vibrant and thriving Murray-Darling Basin*. As a result, the MDA has:

- Partnered with CSIRO with a focus on science and education to address some of the Basin's toughest challenges.
- Advocated for and represented local government in environmental issues, including floodplain harvesting etc.
- Partnered with Murray-Darling Basin Authority, better supporting local government through information sharing and representation.
- Supported regions to develop Climate Ready Communities statements

Benefits to your economy.

For many, if not all, Basin communities, water security plays an important role in economic growth and sustainability. Through the MDA's regional alignments and partnerships, member councils leverage the value of knowledge sharing across the local government and regional development sectors to pursue water quality, water security and other priorities.

The MDA provides member councils with partnerships that support regional economic development and diversification initiatives.

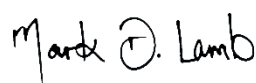
Benefits to your council.

Our mission is to provide high value services to our members, and their communities by delivering quality projects, events and products create enduring value for Basin communities and governments.

Our achievements

The Murray Darling Association has been successful in shifting policies to better reflect the needs of the Basin communities, and we are continuing to grow our reach and impact as portrayed in our [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

The relationship between the MDA and our member Councils contributes strongly to the development of the local government sector as a whole and our collective role in ensuring a vibrant, sustainable future for the Murray-Darling Basin.



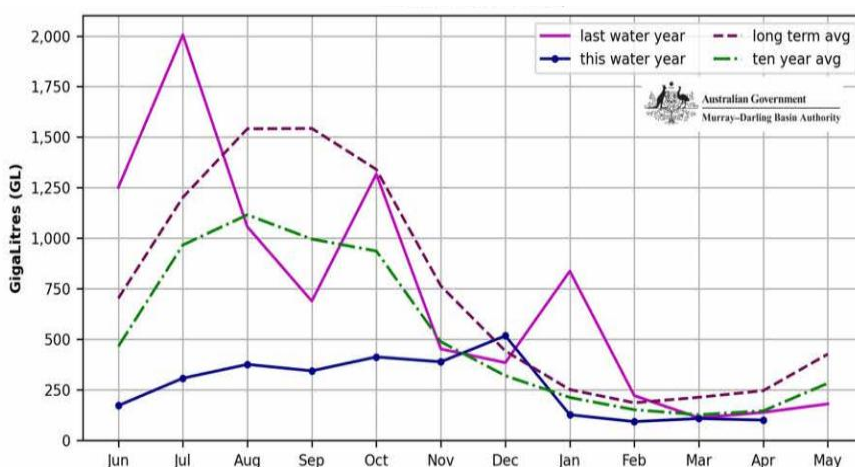
Mark D. Lamb
Chief Executive Officer

Murray-Darling Basin Authority Update June 2025

Storages as at 11 June 25 are showing a TOTAL basin storage 4,568 GL or 53%. This figure is broadly in line with River Murray system historical averages for this time of the year.

Same time last year Southern Basin was at 12,630GL or 78% and Northern Basin at 3,157 or 67% With a TOTAL storage sitting at 16,971GL or 76%.

- Currently around 5.GL.day is flowing across the border. This includes the full June Entitlement flow of 3 GL/day along with the environmental, interstate trade adjustments and adjustments for deferred entitlement flows, which are stored and accumulated for critical human water needs during dry periods.
- Approximately 1-2GL per day of Environmental water is expected to continue to arrive across the SA border during June.
- Testing of water in the Coorong's North Lagoon has confirmed the presence of the *Karenia* strain of algae, that is the same strain that has affected parts of the SA coastline.
- In Basin Plan Review space.
 - July release of the Basin Plan Evaluation and The Sustainable Rivers Audit.
 - Late 2025 Outlook for the Basin and The Sustainable Yields report.
 - Early 2026 Discussion Paper followed by a minimum 12-week public consultation.



Murray System Monthly Inflows (excl. Snowy, Darling, inter-valley trade and environmental flows) current water year.

MDBA

- MDBA River Reflections Conference being held in Murray Bridge 29-30 July tickets are now available [2025 River Reflections conference | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)
- Community Forum Group held an online meeting on 22 May covering “Social & Economic Impacts of the Basin Plan and Basin Plan Review Roadmap update”
 - There are also around 25 Community Forum members from around the basin attending the River Reflections conference after completing an expression of interest application.
- The Murray-Darling Basin Authority met on 16 April in Canberra. appointment of new Authority member Ms Belinda Duarte AM, as a female First Nations Representative.
[Murray-Darling Basin Authority Communique – April 2025 | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

- The first tranche of the oral history 'scrolling stories' was released last week. The Loxton region had 20 interviews that formed part of the project. Goolwa was also part of the project with 12 interviews but is still in the development phase. 7 regions spread throughout the basin have been interviewed.
- New Publications Released [Publications | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)
 - Synthesis of indirect impacts of climate change in the Murray-Darling Basin.
 - Over 30 new Publications went up on 19th May

DCCEEW

- In a historic first, the Australian Government has announced the initial purchase under the Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements (AWEP) Program: 200 megalitres of general security water in the Macquarie-Wambuul catchment, valued at \$880,000.
- 450 GL Water recovery program is moving forward with more water having been purchased. In late June we should see an updated figure of actual water recovered.
- Sustainable Communities Program is moving forward in South Australia with a Department of Environment and Water announcement.
- Cultural Flows planning program should open in July after being put on hold due to the election.

GENERAL WATER

- Department of Environment and Water SA have a projected opening water allocation for 25/26 water year will be 100%.
- SA Health still has a recreational Blue Green Algae alert for the Goolwa Channel (Point Surt to Goolwa Barrage) and advise of marine algal bloom close to the Murray Mouth which can travel depending on conditions.
- Planning for the delivery of water for the environment throughout 2025-26 is currently in progress. As part of this process, planning for the potential operation of the 3 major floodplain regulators (Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko) and the associated locks and weirs is also underway. Operation at each site is under consideration noting this will depend on suitable flows occurring in late winter and spring.
- Dredging is continuing around the Murray Mouth and Tauwitchere Channel.



Rivers, for generations.

Kate Bartlett
Regional Engagement Officer, Lower Murray SA
Phone- 0409 726 751
Email Kate.Bartlett@mdba.gov.au



[Home](#) / [News and events](#) / [Conferences](#) / 2025 River Reflections conference

2025 River Reflections conference

River Reflections is an opportunity for the diverse communities and industries of the Basin to listen and learn from one another, sharing what is known and exploring the latest information to ensure Rivers, for generations.

Community

Conference theme

Harnessing the energy of the collective

Dates and location

The 2025 conference will be held on 29 to 30 July on the lands of the Ngarrindjeri people in the bustling rural city of Murray Bridge, South Australia – the heart of the Murraylands.

Conference venue

Bridges Event Centre, 342 Brinkley Rd, Murray Bridge South SA 5253



Secure your place

Secure your **ticket** now or register to access the FREE livestream.

[Get tickets](#)

Conference program

Note: times are **Australian Central Standard Time (ACST)**

Day 1 – Tuesday 29 July 2025

Time	Session	Speaker
8:00 am	Registrations, tea and coffee	
8:30 am	Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony	Uncle Clyde Rigney Senior Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
Morning	Conference introduction	
	Introduction to South Australia's Murray region	Rosalie Auricht CEO, Renmark Irrigation Trust
	Address by the Chair of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority	<u>Daryl Quinlivan</u> Chair, Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)
	Conversation	<u>Andrew McConville</u> Chief Executive, MDBA
	Future demographic trends of the Basin	<u>Hari Hara Priya Kannan</u> The Demographics Group
	First Nations perspective: Ponde Monitoring Program	Alban Kartinyeri Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation <u>Sheryl Giles</u> River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation <u>Qifeng Ye</u> South Australian Research and Development Institute
Afternoon	Visit to Lower Lakes: Transport and lunch provided, with discussions and presentations onsite	
5:30 pm	Buses return to Bridges Event Centre	

Evening	Conference dinner at Bridgeport Hotel 6:30 pm arrival for a 7:00 pm start	Stephanie Rosestone PhD candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society and Institute for Water Futures, Australian National University
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Day 2 – Wednesday 30 July 2025

Time	Session	Speaker
8:00 am	Registrations, tea and coffee	
Morning	Welcome to day 2	
	The Basin Plan Review: What we know now With MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder	Tim Goodes Executive Director Basin Plan, MDBA
	Morning tea	
	A youth perspective: Views from tomorrow's leaders	River Murray Youth Council
	Integrated Catchment Management Outcomes and examples from South Australia and Victoria on how they're planning for integrated land and water management. Includes case studies from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	Dr Sylvia Clarke Senior Project Officer Citizen Science and Community Engagement, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Stuart Sexton Senior Project Officer Water Planning, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Nikki Gemmill Director, DEECA
12:45 pm	Lunch	
Afternoon	Preparing for the future	Matthew Coulton Associate Director, Ricardo Consulting Brendan Moon AM Coordinator, General National Emergency Management Agency
	Workshop: Conversation on Building our Basin's future	
4:45 pm	Conference wrap-up	

Last updated: 26 June 2025



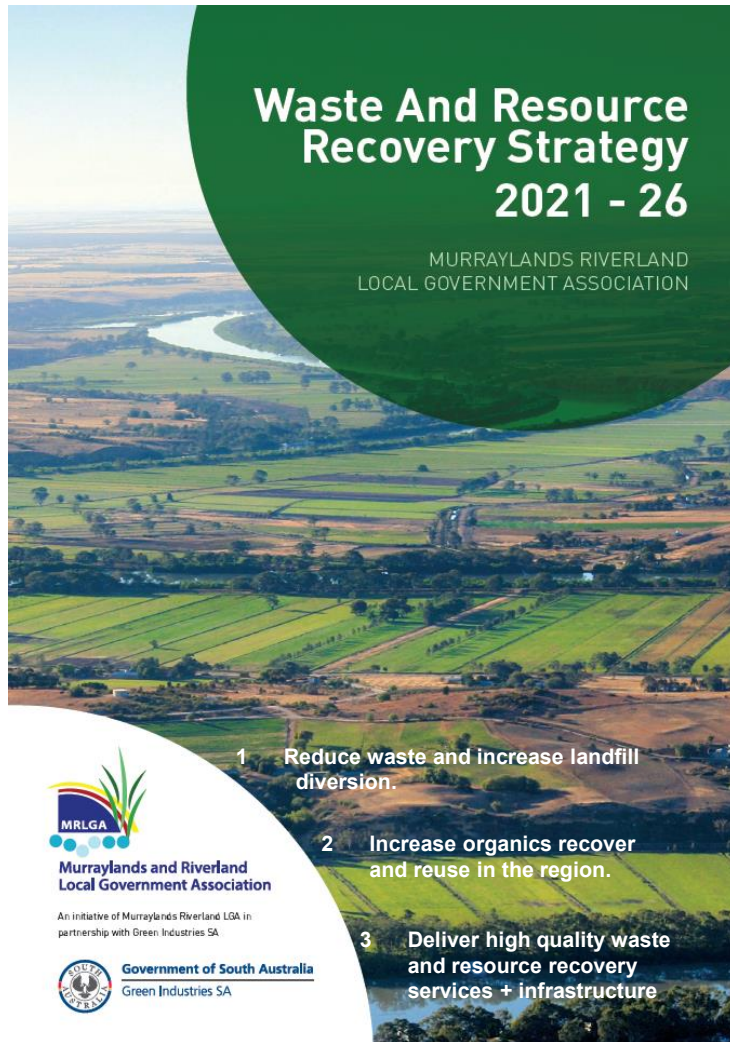
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respects to the people, the Cultures and the Elders past and present.



engagement@mdba.gov.au
1800 230 067 (free call) or 02 6279 0100
GPO Box 1801, Canberra City, ACT 2601

MRLGA Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy Quarterly Update

MRLGA : Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (2021-2026) : **Regional Update**



Our Mission

To work together to deliver high quality, cost effective waste and resource recovery services that minimise contributions to landfill and create value through investigation, engagement, innovation and investment.

		Targets	Project Status
	Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% from '21 baseline	25.1 %	Underway 1.1 Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services
	50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bins (regional av. based on LGA population).	35.9 %	
	65 % diversion across all materials managed by councils (kerbside + transfer stations - regional avg based on LGA pop). Data collection is pending.	Unreportable	Completed 1.2 Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings.
	All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection. 5 of 8 Councils provide food and garden organics as kerbside service.	5 / 8	
	Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50 %.	18.48 %	To Come 1.3 Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure. Early conversations have begun as part of the kerbside review project.
	Use education + technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams (Comingled recycling <12%) (FOGO <2%)	Notes	
	Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually.	Notes	Underway 1.4 Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals.
	Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Underway	
	Provide improved services within the current cost per household.	TBC	Completed 1.5 1.5 Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling
	Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	100%	

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

Reduce per capita waste generation by 5% (from 2021 GISA baseline)											
5%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Target		MRLGA Actual				Score
	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Per Person	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Person	Per Household	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)	418 kg/py	1019 kg/py	408 kg/py	937 kg/py	-	-			392.00 kg/py	886.00 kg/py	
(1% reduction) 2022	-	-	-	-	388.0 kg/py	877.1 kg/py			-	-	
(2% reduction) 2023	-	-	-	-	384.1 kg/py	868.2 kg/py	24,508,260	36,063	-	679.60 kg/py	27.75 %
(3% reduction) 2024	-	-	-	-	380.2 kg/py	859.4 kg/py	25,010,060	36,413	-	686.84 kg/py	25.12 %
(4% reduction) 2025					376.3 kg/py	850.5 kg/py					
(5% reduction) 2026					372.4 kg/py	841.7 kg/py					

Individual Council Data	2023			2024			Difference between 2023 and 2024
	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Total Annual Waste (kg)	Total No of Households	Per Household	Annual kg / Per Household / %
BBC	3,777,110	5,422	696.63 kg/py	3,773,940	5,445	693.10 kg/py	- 3,170 kg / + 23 h. / + 3 kg/ph
CDC	1,297,520	2,268	572.09 kg/py	1,655,590	2,319	713.92 kg/py	+ 358,070* kg / + 51 h. / + 141.83 kg/ph
DCKEM	212,080	298	711.67 kg/py	211,640	304	696.18 kg/py	- 440 kg / + 6 h. / - 15.49 kg/ph
DCLW	3,688,480	5,411	681.66 kg/py	3,708,280	5,457	697.54 kg/py	+ 19,800 kg / +46 h. / +15.88 kg/ph
MMC	3,221,450	6,308	510.69 kg/py	3,306,180	6,322	522.98 kg/py	+84,730 kg / +14 h. / +12.29 kg/ph
RCMB	8,297,120	11,749	706.19 kg/py	8,341,740	11,936	698.87 kg/py	+44,620 kg / +187 h. / -7.32 kg/ph
RPC	3,322,290	3,804	873.36 kg/py	3,322,240	3,826	868.33 kg/py	-50 kg / +22 h. / -5.03 kg/ph
SMDC	720,800	803	897.63 kg/yy	701,000	803	872.97 kg/py	-19,800 kg / 0 h. -24.66 kg/ph

Notes:

- SA Reg Ave is taken from GISA Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22 : <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/documents/GISA-StatewideKerbsideReport-2021-22.pdf>
- 2023 and 2024 figures are based on actual kerbside collection data only. Recorded weights are calculated against Service Entitled Property numbers to provide per person and per household averages. SA Outer Regional Average for number of persons per dwelling is 2.2 per household (ABS).
- MRLGA Actual - No data currently available for calendar year 2022.
- MRLGA Baseline is (24500000KG / 73000) from the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- GISA has not released a kerbside service report for 2023, 2024.
- CDC – Universal 3 bin system incorporating FOGO bin introduced in Oct. 2023

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

50 % diversion of materials collected from kerbside bin (regional average based on LGA population).																
↑50%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-	8,500	35 %	39%	28%	13%	39%	10%	45%	36%	14%
2022					-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023					12,352	50	8,879	36.2	40.8	28.94	8.8	39.7	10.8	44.7	41.2	10.6
2024					12,505	50	8,971	35.9	38.9	40.6	7.9	37.2	12.5	43.9	39.9	10.4
					Differential		+92	-0.3	- 11.1%	- 9.4%	-42.1	- 12.8%	-37.5	- 6.1%	-10.10	-39.6
2025					-	-	-	-								
2026					-	50 %										

Note:
1. This data is from Q3 (24/25) Reporting. Data is still being gathered from the contractor to inform Q4 (24/25) reporting.

Regional Strategic Objective 1 : Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

65% diversion across all materials managed by councils. (kerbside and transfer stations – regional average based on LGA population).																
↑65%	SA Metropolitan Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC	CDC	DCKEM	DCLW	MMC	RCMB	RPC	SMDC
					Tonne / Per Yr	%	Tonne / Per Yr	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)					-	-										
2024					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

UPDATE :

Reporting on this target is currently unavailable due to the following challenges:

- There are over 26 infrastructure sites across that manage and control waste streams. The method, frequency and format for reporting 'all waste' is not consistent from current inquiries.
- Some of these sites are owned and operated by commercial or external organisations/contractors.
- The requirements for reporting to EPA are only activated for sites that manage over 10,000t.
- The complexity of this reporting also relates to how long material is stored at a site (ie the year it is received may not be the year it is re-used / recovered).

To accurately report on this target, the following waste streams will need to be recorded, reported and measured. MRLGA is working with stakeholders in the 'eco-system' to see if this can be overcome.

- Bulk residual waste
- Bulk Recyclable (cardboard, drums, timber, packaging)
- Bulk Greenwaste/Organics
- Scrap metal including whitegoods
- Mattresses
- E-wastes
- Commercial and Demolition waste (concrete and rubble, soil, fill, and mixed aggregates)
- Hazardous waste (tyres, batteries, paint, waste oil, septage, household chemicals, asbestos, CCA treated products)

MRLGA Waste infrastructure	Landfills	Transfer Stations	Hardwaste Services	Compost facilities
BBC	Nil	1 (CLWY)	Yes - collection	Nil
RPC	Nil	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
LWDC	Nil	2	Yes - drop off	Nil
MMC	1	10	Yes - drop off	Nil
CDC	Nil	4	Yes - drop off	Nil
RCMB	1 (AHRWMA)	1	Yes - collection + drop off	1 (PEATS)
DCKEM	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil
SMDC	1	1	Yes - drop off	Nil

The table above shows the early research done to gather the number infrastructure sites/points that receiving waste (that would be used to measure and report on this target).

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection.							
5 / 8	General Waste (weekly)	Recycling (f)	FOGO		Township SEP's	Rural SEP's	Estimated average FOGO going to landfill (applying a rate of 41%).
			Township (f)	Rural (f)			
BBC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	3512	1944	
CDC	✓	✓	FOGO	FOGO	2167	169	
DCKEM	✓	✓ (m)	✗	✗	304 *		79.9 t
DCLW	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2594	2883	
MMC	✓	✓	✗	✗	2139	4212	1,205 t
RCMB	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	9956	2073	
RPC	✓	✓	FOGO	✗	2780	1043	
SMDC	✓	TBC	✗	✗	815 *		257.6 t

Total - 1,542 t

Comparison to South Australian Councils	SA Metro Councils	SA Regional Councils	Total
1 Bin System	-	2	2
2 Bin System	-	15	15
3 Bin System	16	33	49
Unknown	-	2	2
Total	16	52	68

Definitions:

SEP	Service Entitled Premises (ie Dwelling)
FOGO	Food Organics & Garden Organics (ie food + garden scraps can go into this bin).
(f)	Fortnightly
(m)	Monthly
t	Tonnes

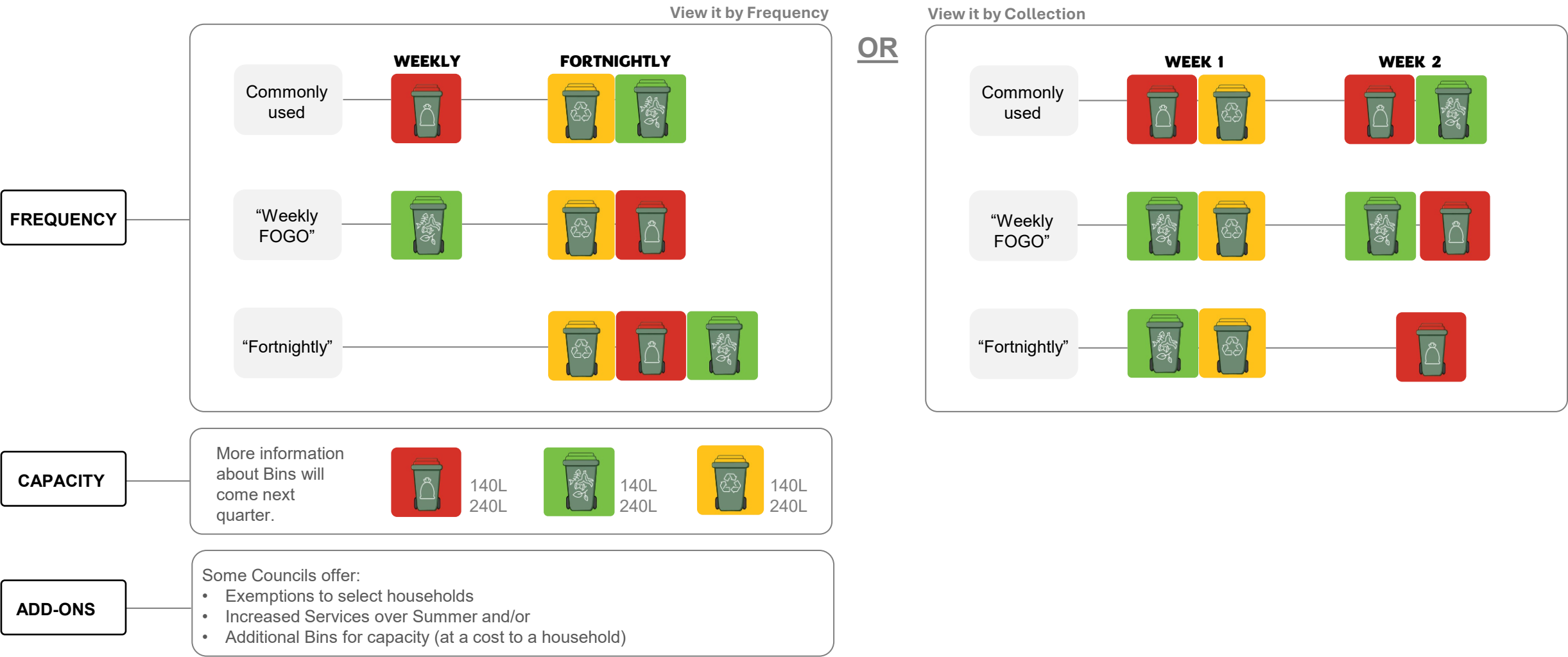
Notes:

- (*) indicates the number is not reported separately
- 3 Bin system status as of Jan 2025.
- Bin Composition audits are being conducted across 6 MRL: A Council's being in March/April 2025. The results will assist to identify further landfill diversion opportunity's, as it relates to this target.

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Information about Kerbside Waste Service Models:

The table below shows the 3 common kerbside waste service models in South Australia.



Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Background

The table below shows the different kerbside waste service models across each regional South Australian Council for 2025.

SA Regional Councils	TOWNSHIP AREAS							Comment
	Weekly			Fortnightly			Monthly	
	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO		
Adelaide Plains Council				✓	✓	✓		
Alexandrina Council				✓	✓	✓		
Barunga West Council				✓	✓	✓		
Berri Baramera Council	✓				✓	✓		
City of Mount Gambier	✓				✓	✓		
City of Port Lincoln	✓				✓			PILOT Underway
City of Victor Harbor				✓	✓	✓		
Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council				✓	✓	✓		
Coorong District Council	✓				✓	✓		
Copper Coast Council				✓	✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Campbelltown	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the City of Whyalla	✓				✓	✓		
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Ceduna	✓				✓			
District Council of Cleve	✓				✓			
District Council of Coober Pedy								
District Council of Elliston	✓				✓			
District Council of Franklin Harbour	✓							
District Council of Grant				✓	✓			
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	✓						✓	
District Council of Kimba	✓						✓	
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	✓				✓			
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Mount Remarkable	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	✓				✓			
District Council of Peterborough	✓				✓			
District Council of Robe	✓				✓	✓		
District Council of Streaky Bay	✓							
District Council of Tumby Bay								
District Council of Yankalilla				✓	✓	✓		
Kangaroo Island Council				✓	✓	✓		General Service Summer Time Service
Kangaroo Island Council		✓	✓	✓				
Kingston District Council	✓				✓			
Light Regional Council	✓				✓	✓		
Mid Murray Council	✓				✓			
District Council of Mount Barker	✓				✓	✓		
Municipal Council of Roxby Downs	✓				✓		✓	
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	✓					✓		
Northern Areas Council	✓				✓			
Port Pirie Regional Council			✓	✓	✓			

		TOWNSHIP AREAS						
		Weekly			Fortnightly			Monthly
		Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	Garbage	Recycling	FOGO	
Regional Council of Goyder					✓	✓	✓	
Renmark Paringa Council	✓					✓	✓	
Rural City of Murray Bridge	✓					✓	✓	
Southern Mallee District Council	✓					✓		
Tatiara District Council	✓					✓	✓	
The Barossa Council	✓					✓	✓	
The Flinders Ranges Council	✓					✓		
Town of Gawler	✓					✓	✓	
Wakefield Regional Council					✓	✓	✓	
Wattle Range Council	✓					✓	✓	
Wudinna District Council	✓							
Yorke Peninsula Council	✓					✓		✓

Note:

1. Port Pirie Council has been offering weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling for 12 months.
2. Port Lincoln City Council & Mt Barker City Council are/about to conduct a pilot trial for weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling.
3. Adelaide Hills has conducted three pilot trials across three towns on varying service levels.
4. City of Holdfast Bay has run weekly FOGO, fortnightly garbage, fortnightly recycling since Sept 2020.
5. Grey cells indicate either a) no service or b) no online information about the service.

Regional Strategic Objective 2 : Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50%.																		
50%	SA Metro Avg.		SA Regional Avg.		MRLGA Diversion Goal		MRLGA Diversion Actual		BBC		CDC		DCLW		RCMB		RPC	
					t / py	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%	t	%
2021 / 2022 (Baseline)							-	16.32										
2022						23.05			-		-		-		-		-	
2023						29.79			770	20.4	101	7.8	698	18.9	2261	27.3	754	22.7
2024						36.52		18.48	713	18.9	395	23.9	631	17.2	2176	26.2	706	21.3
					Differential			31.5%		31.1%		26.1		32.8		23.8		28.7
2025						43.26												
2026						50.00												

- Note:**
- The following Councils are not listed in the above table as they do not provide a 3rd waste bin for FOGO:
 - Mid Murray Council
 - District Council of Karoonda East Murray
 - Southern Mallee District Council
 - The data above is from Q3 (24/25). We are waiting on data from the Contractor to substantiate analysis for Q4 (24/25).

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Use education and technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams:	Education MRLGA hosts an central Waste Education Officer across the five Councils (participating in the joint waste service contract). A 2025 waste education program is complete and MRLGA is available to support operational staff to bring it to elected members. A 2025/26 “Sustainability Calendar” will be out in August for Councils. Wast facility tours are have been delivered with CDC and RPC. Tours for other Councils will be scheduled after winter. Brochures with waste information and ‘which bin’ material have been developed for the Riverland and for the Murraylands. MRLGA procured a joint Kerbside Waste Bin Audit (resulting in savings). The Audits have been completed and each Council has had a 1-1 session to review the results with the waste education officer. MRLGA will support the results to be presented to elected members. A community waste education presentation is 90% complete and sessions will commence in September with Councils nominated stakeholder groups.					
	Baseline	2023	2024	2025	Notes	
	Comingled recycling < 12 per cent	13% Gisa Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available	No data available. Note - state average is est. 15%	Data Pending Audit Results – due August 2025.	Note: GISA and EPA was to release a state wide report in April 2025 showing updated contamination rate data, however this has not yet been released.
	FOGO <2 per cent	2% Gisa Kerbside Waste Performance Report 21-22	No data available.	No data available.	Data Pending Audit Results – due August 2025.	
	Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually	Technology For those councils engaging Solo Resource Recovery as their waste services contractor, waste collection vehicles deployed have installed industry standard WasteTrack In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) software. WasteTrack equipment is installed by City of Onkaparinga, FRWA, and across Solo Resource Recovery operations nationally. The system utilises real time camera links from vehicle to SOLO Depot. Allows footage to be stored and reviewed for 30 days. System provides GPS monitoring of vehicle location routing, diversion requests, and productivity. Records exact time and location of bin lift and controls illegal service presentations. Allows issues such as contamination to be monitored and logged through onboard driver scrutiny of items entering truck hopper each time a lift occurs. Allows reporting of bin repair, kerbside presentation issues, and records spillage remediation. Note: This technology should not be confused with "smart bin" technologies. Smart bin technologies are available to councils in the form of purpose-built public space bin enclosures which are fitted with solar powered compaction mechanisms linked to a central control via WIFI which asset in regulating efficient servicing frequencies . RFID technologies (also not smart bin technology) are available on new bin fleet. RFID technologies primarily asset with matching a bin to a property and asset managing bin inventory. Field research is occurring with City of Onkaparinga with their 2-stage residual / FOGO sorting processing. Network meeting with Greenhill Energy is being scheduled to consider their place in the emerging market and processing practices. Report to MRLGA Annual reporting may limit the Board’s ability to engage with this portfolio, so MRLGA is preparing this quarterly report to assist with monitoring progress against targets.				

Regional Strategic Objective 3 : Deliver high quality waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.	Infrastructure Pursuant to the Strategy, MRLGA has commenced conversations with the three Riverland Councils (operations teams) in regards to regional waste infrastructure initiatives. This includes the proposed concept of a regional composting facility in the Riverland.		
Provide improved services within the current cost per household	Improved Services for Households The process to review kerbside waste services across the region has begun. (7/8 Councils are participating). MRLGA is engaging with the operations side of Councils as the review (report) progresses. SMDC is not currently having the review done while it considers its overall waste management service model and infrastructure longevity. Extensive data on regional waste management is being compiled to provide evidence-based approaches to proposals for system changes and improvements. Kerbside waste bin audits are underway which will inform evidence to support the review. Case study's are also being included with the review from other regional councils. As part of the Alternative Kerbside Waste Service Review, the MRLGA is modelling the financial impacts of proposed alternative kerbside collection that are aimed at improving landfill diversion rates. This modelling analysis includes information on the cost per household for prevailing kerbside systems, and two proposed alternative kerbside service options. This information provides a means to assist councils to drill into service cost components and charges and manage forecasting processes. At this stage calculators are under development for the five councils who participated in the joint procurement initiative for the waste services contracts. For those councils participating we have commenced our waste facility tours program which take participants through waste stream flows, highlighting issues associated with current practices and opportunities for improving the sustainability. The MRLGA has reviewed current regional waste-stream flow logistics and identified aggregation and bulk handling aspects which feed into cost per household within the waste services contracts. Investigations into alternative flows that are aimed at reducing aggregation and bulk haulage costs have commenced.		
Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services	Purpose	Membership	Comment
	MRLGA Waste Management & Resource Recovery Committee <i>The Committee oversees the delivery of the Strategy.</i>	8 Regional Councils 1 x Representative from each Council (Director / General Manager)	Reports to MRLGA Board
	Joint Waste Service Contract	5 Regional Councils <i>(each who participated in the joint waste contract)</i>	
	(Riverland) Performance Management Working Group (Murraylands) Performance Management Working Group	- Berri Barmerra Council - District Council of Loxton Waikerie - Renmark Paringa Council - Coorong District Council - Rural City of Murray Bridge	MRLGA has a centralised model to: - Review Claims - Performance Management Reporting and Convening - Quarterly Reporting (coming soon) - Waste Audits - Waste Education

Appendix 5

MRLGA Quarter 4 Financial Statements

Executive Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 June 2025

	APR-JUN 2025	APR-JUN 2024	VARIANCE
Cash			
Cash received	131,605.12	157,826.28	-16.61% ↓
Cash spent	131,979.95	55,652.05	137.15% ↑
Cash surplus (deficit)	(374.83)	102,174.23	-100.37% ↓
Closing bank balance	177,436.06	125,247.47	41.67% ↑
Profitability			
Income	97,522.00	143,540.24	-32.06% ↓
Direct costs	-	6,600.00	-100.00% ↓
Gross profit (loss)	97,522.00	136,940.24	-28.78% ↓
Other income	-	-	- —
Expenses	142,392.22	58,415.76	143.76% ↑
Profit (loss)	(44,870.22)	78,524.48	-157.14% ↓
Balance Sheet			
Debtors	25,198.80	-	- —
Creditors	-	-	- —
Net assets	1,063,543.65	1,019,127.86	4.36% ↑
Sales			
Number of invoices issued	8.00	8.00	- —
Average value of invoices	12,190.25	14,957.56	-18.50% ↓
Performance			
Gross profit margin (%)	100.00	95.40	4.82% ↑
Net profit margin (%)	(46.01)	54.71	-184.11% ↓
Return on investment (p.a.) (%)	(16.88)	30.82	-154.76% ↓
Position			
Average debtor days	23.51	-	- —
Average creditor days	-	-	- —
Short term cash forecast	25,198.80	-	- —
Current assets to liabilities	9.02	12.98	-30.49% ↓
Term assets to liabilities	-	-	- —

Profit and Loss

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 June 2025

	QUARTER	BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Council Subscriptions									
Berri Barmera Council	12,415.00	24,831.00	(12,416.00)	↓	24,830.00	24,831.00	(1.00)	↓	24,831.00
Coorong District Council	10,493.00	20,987.00	(10,494.00)	↓	20,986.00	20,987.00	(1.00)	↓	20,987.00
DC of Karoonda East Murray	5,869.50	11,740.00	(5,870.50)	↓	11,739.00	11,740.00	(1.00)	↓	11,740.00
DC of Loxton Waikerie	14,093.00	28,187.00	(14,094.00)	↓	28,186.00	28,187.00	(1.00)	↓	28,187.00
Mid Murray Council	13,670.00	27,340.00	(13,670.00)	↓	36,049.09	27,340.00	8,709.09	↑	27,340.00
Renmark Paringa Council	11,804.50	23,609.00	(11,804.50)	↓	23,609.00	23,609.00	-	—	23,609.00
Rural City of Murray Bridge	22,200.00	44,400.00	(22,200.00)	↓	44,400.00	44,400.00	-	—	44,400.00
Southern Mallee DC	6,977.00	13,955.00	(6,978.00)	↓	13,954.00	13,955.00	(1.00)	↓	13,955.00
Total Council Subscriptions	97,522.00	195,049.00	(97,527.00)		203,753.09	195,049.00	8,704.09		195,049.00
Other Income									
Community Wellbeing Alliance Income	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	40,000.00
Regional Capacity Building	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	—	40,000.00
SLRP Surcharge	-	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	↓	36,218.18	25,000.00	11,218.18	↑	25,000.00
Interest Income	-	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	↓	26,392.56	4,000.00	22,392.56	↑	4,000.00
Waste Education Levy	-	112,250.00	(112,250.00)	↓	160,555.00	112,250.00	48,305.00	↑	112,250.00
Waste Contract Management Levy	-	70,000.00	(70,000.00)	↓	64,580.00	70,000.00	(5,420.00)	↓	70,000.00
Total Other Income	-	291,250.00	(291,250.00)		327,745.74	291,250.00	36,495.74		291,250.00

	QUARTER	BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Gross Profit	97,522.00	486,299.00	(388,777.00)		531,498.83	486,299.00	45,199.83		486,299.00
Expenses									
Administration Expenses									
Allowance (President)	-	3,551.00	(3,551.00)	↓	3,227.27	3,551.00	(323.73)	↓	3,551.00
Audit and Accounting Fees	-	7,500.00	(7,500.00)	↓	3,830.00	7,500.00	(3,670.00)	↓	7,500.00
Bank Fees	-	120.00	(120.00)	↓	40.00	120.00	(80.00)	↓	120.00
Insurance	97.00	9,800.00	(9,703.00)	↓	10,311.30	9,800.00	511.30	↑	9,800.00
Legal expenses	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	410.00	5,000.00	(4,590.00)	↓	5,000.00
Meeting Expenses	3,085.92	5,000.00	(1,914.08)	↓	8,310.97	5,000.00	3,310.97	↑	5,000.00
Office Expenses	925.27	4,400.00	(3,474.73)	↓	1,925.48	4,400.00	(2,474.52)	↓	4,400.00
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	1,041.56	2,748.00	(1,706.44)	↓	3,094.96	2,748.00	346.96	↑	2,748.00
Sundry Expenses	2,750.53	2,000.00	750.53	↑	3,267.03	2,000.00	1,267.03	↑	2,000.00
Website Maintenance	-	4,935.00	(4,935.00)	↓	-	4,935.00	(4,935.00)	↓	4,935.00
Total Administration Expenses	7,900.28	45,054.00	(37,153.72)		34,417.01	45,054.00	(10,636.99)		45,054.00
Operational Expenses									
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	↓	3,599.09	2,000.00	1,599.09	↑	2,000.00
Superannuation	22,013.92	42,282.00	(20,268.08)	↓	60,728.14	42,282.00	18,446.14	↑	42,282.00
Wages and Salaries	91,283.70	367,718.00	(276,434.30)	↓	337,382.23	367,718.00	(30,335.77)	↓	367,718.00
Office Equipment	-	16,500.00	(16,500.00)	↓	4,595.24	16,500.00	(11,904.76)	↓	16,500.00
Employee Leave Provision Movement	-	-	-	—	12,809.00	-	12,809.00	↑	-

	QUARTER	BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Admin Support	-	45,000.00	(45,000.00)	↓	-	45,000.00	(45,000.00)	↓	45,000.00
Total Operational Expenses	113,297.62	473,500.00	(360,202.38)		419,113.70	473,500.00	(54,386.30)		473,500.00
Project Expenses									
Community Wellbeing Alliance	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	195.45	40,000.00	(39,804.55)	↓	40,000.00
Regional Public Health Plan	18,181.82	-	18,181.82	↑	18,181.82	-	18,181.82	↑	-
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	3,012.50	-	3,012.50	↑	5,217.66	-	5,217.66	↑	-
Roads Database	-	-	-	—	9,957.40	-	9,957.40	↑	-
Projects 1-5 Transport of Roads	-	57,000.00	(57,000.00)	↓	-	57,000.00	(57,000.00)	↓	57,000.00
Total Project Expenses	21,194.32	97,000.00	(75,805.68)		33,552.33	97,000.00	(63,447.67)		97,000.00
Total Expenses	142,392.22	615,554.00	(473,161.78)		487,083.04	615,554.00	(128,470.96)		615,554.00
Net Profit	(44,870.22)	(129,255.00)	84,384.78		44,415.79	(129,255.00)	173,670.79		(129,255.00)

Cash Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 June 2025

	APR-JUN 2025	YEAR TO DATE
Income		
Berri Barmera Council	-	12,415.00
Coorong District Council	-	10,493.00
DC of Karoonda East Murray	5,869.50	11,739.00
DC of Loxton Waikerie	14,093.00	28,186.00
Interest Income	-	26,392.56
Mid Murray Council	13,670.00	36,049.09
Regional Capacity Building	-	40,000.00
Renmark Paringa Council	11,804.50	23,609.00
Rural City of Murray Bridge	22,200.00	44,400.00
SLRP Surcharge	-	36,218.18
Southern Mallee DC	6,977.00	13,954.00
Waste Contract Management Levy	12,916.00	64,580.00
Waste Education Levy	32,111.00	160,555.00
Total Income	119,641.00	508,590.83
Less Expenses		
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	-	3,599.09
Accrued Interest Revenue	-	(4,656.50)
Allowance (President)	-	3,227.27
Audit and Accounting Fees	-	3,830.00
Bank Fees	-	40.00
Community Wellbeing Alliance	-	195.45
Employee Leave Provision Movement	-	12,809.00
Insurance	97.00	10,311.30
Legal expenses	-	410.00
LGFA Investment Deposits	-	19,249.06
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	1,041.56	3,094.96
Meeting Expenses	3,085.92	8,310.97
Office Equipment	-	4,595.24
Office Expenses	925.27	1,925.48
PAYG Withholdings Payable	381.00	28,943.00
Provision for Employee Leave	-	(12,809.00)
Regional Public Health Plan	18,181.82	18,181.82
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	3,012.50	5,217.66
Roads Database	-	9,957.40
Sundry Expenses	2,750.53	3,267.03
Superannuation	22,013.92	60,728.14
Superannuation Payable	(10,081.14)	(28,318.28)
Wages and Salaries	91,283.70	337,382.23
Wages Payable - Payroll	(3,621.59)	(3,621.59)
Total Expenses	129,070.49	485,869.73

	APR-JUN 2025	YEAR TO DATE
Surplus (Deficit)	(9,429.49)	22,721.10
Plus Tax Movements		
Tax Collected	11,964.12	49,509.87
Tax Paid	(2,909.46)	(20,042.38)
Net Tax Movements	9,054.66	29,467.49
Net Cash Movement	(374.83)	52,188.59
Summary		
Opening Balance	177,810.89	125,247.47
Plus Net Cash Movement	(374.83)	52,188.59
Cash Balance	177,436.06	177,436.06

Balance Sheet

Murray and Mallee LGA As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets		
Bank		
Murray and Mallee LGA	177,436.06	125,247.47
Total Bank	177,436.06	125,247.47
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	25,198.80	-
Accrued Interest Revenue	2,406.86	7,063.36
LGFA Investment Deposits	992,895.12	973,646.06
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Total Current Assets	1,020,600.78	980,809.42
Total Assets	1,198,036.84	1,106,056.89
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	44,258.82	12,500.53
PAYG Withholdings Payable	(21,527.00)	7,416.00
Payments Received in Advance	40,000.00	40,000.00
Provision for Employee Leave	33,989.00	21,180.00
Superannuation Payable	32,426.78	4,108.50
Wages Payable - Payroll	3,621.59	-
Total Current Liabilities	132,769.19	85,205.03
Non-current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	1,724.00	1,724.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	1,724.00	1,724.00
Total Liabilities	134,493.19	86,929.03
Net Assets	1,063,543.65	1,019,127.86
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	44,415.79	34,978.79
Retained Earnings	1,019,127.86	984,149.07
Total Equity	1,063,543.65	1,019,127.86

Statement of Cash Flows

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 June 2025

	APR-JUN 2025	JAN-MAR 2025
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	131,605.12	14,207.60
Payments to suppliers and employees	(145,301.68)	(150,495.02)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(13,696.56)	(136,287.42)
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	13,321.73	(25,355.22)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	13,321.73	(25,355.22)
Net Cash Flows	(374.83)	(161,642.64)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	177,810.89	339,453.53
Net change in cash for period	(374.83)	(161,642.64)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	177,436.06	177,810.89

Aged Receivables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 30 June 2025

Ageing by due date

CONTACT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Berri Barmera Council	-	13,656.50	-	-	-	13,656.50
Coorong District Council	-	11,542.30	-	-	-	11,542.30
Total	-	25,198.80	-	-	-	25,198.80
Percentage of total	-	100.00%	-	-	-	100.00%

Aged Payables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 30 June 2025

Ageing by due date

Appendix 6

Confidential Item

Appendix 7

Confidential Item

Mid Murray Council, Feedback on the Draft Annual Business Plan

Carron Mcleod

From: Ben Scales <bscales@mid-murray.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 July 2025 4:15 PM
To: Carron Mcleod
Cc: Simone Bailey
Subject: RE: MRLGA - Draft 24/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Carron McLeod
Chief Executive Officer
MRLGA

Dear Carron

In response to correspondence dated 5 May 2024, and the attached copy of the *draft 2025 – 2026 MRLGA Annual Business Plan and Budget* (the Draft Plan and Budget), I advise that the draft Plan and Budget was presented to Council at its 20 May 2025 Council meeting. Following review of the draft Plan and Budget, the following feedback is provided for consideration by the MRLGA:

- General support for the Draft Plan and the key tasks outlined in each theme, with there being broad alignment with Council's *2024-28 Strategic Plan*
- Although it is a targeted Plan with key tasks clearly outlined, there is some concern about the broad scope of the Draft Plan and the Association's ability to deliver the breadth of the tasks outlined in Draft Plan, given the limited human resources that the Association has to deliver the Draft Plan. The Board is encouraged to consider prioritising and focussing on fewer areas and key tasks that will deliver the best outcomes for the constituent Councils.
- The projected loss for the 2024/25 FY and the ongoing commitment to cost savings and efficiencies being identified are noted, as well as the large operating deficit projected across the next two (2) years, decreasing to a smaller loss of the subsequent three (3) years. This is offset by the significant reserves held by the Association.
- The reduction in proposed Subscription fees from 7.58% down to 1.9% is acknowledged, with a 9.98% saving across the last two years.

Council is supportive of the draft Plan and Budget being adopted at the MRLGA AGM to be held on 30 July 2025, subject to consideration of the above comments, and looks forward to working with you on the delivery of the plan over the next 12 months.

Regards

Ben

Ben Scales
Chief Executive Officer

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Renmark Paringa Council, Draft ABP Feedback

Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services - Tarik Wolf
 Manager Infrastructure Services – Shannon Baxter
 Manager Operations – Allan Eastmond

In accordance with Clause E2 of the Instrument, the Council is of the opinion that the following person/s have an appropriate level of knowledge and expertise in the preparation of Traffic Management Plans:

Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services - Tarik Wolf
 Manager Infrastructure Services – Shannon Baxter
 Manager Operations – Allan Eastmond
 Team Leader Open Space – Steve Atkinson
 Team Leader Civil Services – Leon Menz
 Senior CWMS Operator – Greg Haynes
 Team Member Civil Services Grader Operator – Fraser Peters
 Team Member Civil Services – Asher Soderblom
 General Inspector – Peter Burr
 Compliance Officer – Shaun Hoffmann
 Asset Officer – Tas Hodgson
 WHS Officer – Shannon Barton-Ancliffe
 VIC Coordinator – Sue Whitbourne
 Team Member Civil Services – Paul Perry
 Team Member Civil Services – Simon Casey
 Team Member Civil Services – Mathew Thomson
 Maintenance & Response Officer – Neville Geue
 Team Member Civil Services – Chris Greer
 Team Member Open Space Irrigation Officer – Brenton Butler
 Team Member Open Space – David Rees
 Team Member Open Space – Dawn Reid
 Team Member Open Space – John Rimington
 Operations Officer – Philip Trenwith
 Team Member Open Space – Sam Ambler
 Team Member Open Space – Corey Munn

CARRIED

14.2. MRLGA Draft 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and Budget

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OC2025 -58

Moved Deputy Mayor Howie Seconded Cr Townsend

That Council receives the draft 2025-2026 Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) Annual Business Plan and Budget and provides the following feedback on the document

MRLGA Annual Business Plan		
Page 5 – Role – highlight strategic partnerships	Remove – The MRLGA works closely with its major regional partners, including Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDA MR), the Murraylands & Riverland Landscapes Board, the Local Government	Replace with - The MRLGA works closely with its strategic partners, including Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDA MR), the Murraylands & Riverland Landscapes Board, SA Cross Border Commissioner, the

	Association of SA and Australian and State Governments	Local Government Association of SA and Australian and State Government Departments, in particular the Department of Environment and Water and PIRSA.
Page 12 – Advocacy – Improve Housing Options	Include – Create an advocacy statement supported by evidence and a clear action plan focused on regional infrastructure improvements needed to unlock housing supply and address the current housing crisis.	
Page 12 - Advocacy Resilient Communities	Include - Advocate for better mental health outcomes for regional SA.	
Page 14 – Present on the region’s economic position	Comment – This would be great data, particularly if it is collected on a Council-by-Council basis	
Page 14 – One River Murray Authority	Comment – Council strongly supports the concept of the One River Murray Authority and believes the Cross Border Commissioner has a pivotal role to play in assisting with State Government support	
Page 15 – CEO – Financial Sustainability	Include – Support Council's advocacy to enhance the financial sustainability of constituent Councils, with a focus on improving Financial Assistance Grant allocations.	

It should also be noted while the MRLGA CEO is considered extremely competent, the draft plan is considered ambitious with the resources available.

CARRIED