



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Date Thursday 30 October 2025

Venue Barmera Club, 149 Dean Drive, Barmera SA 5345

General Board Meeting PROGRAM

8:50am	Arrival, Registration + Tea and coffee
9:00am	General Meeting Opens
2:00pm	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 12 noon 29 October 2025.

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



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

CONTENTS

1	WELCOME.....	5
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	5
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	5
4	ACTIONS REGISTER.....	5
5	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS	8
5.1	ALGA	8
5.2	LGA of SA.....	9
5.3	SAROC Update	10
6	REGION WIDE AGENCY'S.....	11
6.1	Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC).....	11
6.2	Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event.....	11
6.3	Murray Darling Association	11
6.4	SA Drought Hub	12
6.5	One Basin CRC (Loxton).....	12
6.6	SAPOL.....	12
6.7	Department of Environment & Water	12
6.8	Country SAPHN.....	13
6.9	Country Arts.....	13
7	STATE STRATEGY'S	14
7.1	State Public Health Plan.....	14
7.2	State Waste Strategy.....	14
7.3	State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy.....	14
7.4	State 30 Year Transport Plan.....	14
7.5	Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.....	14
7.6	Murray Mallee Regional Plan	14
7.7	State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office.....	15
7.8	Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill	15
7.9	Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill	15
7.10	Federal News Items.....	15
8	MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items	17
8.1	Public Health & Wellbeing	17
8.2	Waste & Resource Recovery	18
8.3	Climate Ready Regions.....	21
8.4	Water Recovery	21
8.5	Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan).....	22
8.6	MRLGA Strategic Plan	24
8.7	MRLGA Policy Reviews	24

9	FINANCIAL	24
9.1	Quarterly Financial Statements	24
9.2	Annual Report & Audit	24
10	ROUND TABLE	25
10.1	Berri Barmera Council	25
10.2	Coorong District Council	25
10.3	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	25
10.4	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	25
10.5	Mid Murray Council	26
10.6	Renmark Paringa Council	26
10.7	Rural City of Muray Bridge	26
10.8	Southern Mallee District Council	27
11	CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING	27

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1	Minutes from Previous Board Meeting
ATTACHMENT 2	MDA Region 5 Meeting Minutes
ATTACHMENT 3	MDA Region 6 Meeting Minutes
ATTACHMENT 4	Sustainability Calendar
ATTACHMENT 5	MDBA September 2025 Update
ATTACHMENT 6	Quarterly Financial Statements
ATTACHMENT 7	24/25 Audit report
ATTACHMENT 8	Letter from Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray

1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Chairperson, Mayor Ella Winnall to open the meeting.

Welcome Board Members and invited guests.

No apologies communicated.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the first peoples of the River Murray as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we are meeting and respect their spiritual relationship with their country and the importance of their cultural beliefs.

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

"The Confidential and Public Minutes from the MRLGA Annual General Board Meeting held at the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Offices on 31 July 2025 be taken as read and confirmed."

Moved,

Seconded

4 ACTIONS REGISTER

There were 26 board actions from 23/24, of which the following 2 items remain pending.

20 October 2023 - General Meeting		
Action:		
1	Charter Review <i>It would be best to align the MRLGA voting processes with the sector</i> <i>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 schedule a periodical review of the Charter in Q2 25/26.
18 April 2024 – General Meeting		
Action		
2	Ministerial Invite 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 15 board actions from 24/25, of which the following 3 items remain pending.

7 August 2024 – Annual General Meeting		
Action(s)		
3	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).

10 April 2025		
Action		
4	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.
5	The MRLGA Ceo inquire with OSFB if it would consider altering its closed delivery partner program to others.	– A phone call and email inquiry has been made. No reply received as yet.

31 July 2025		
Action(s)		
6	Item of Business to LGA AGM re: Collection of Landscape Levy The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mayor Thorley on a potential motion to the LGA AGM (from Rural City of Murray Bridge) about advocacy towards the withdrawal of Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.	– Completed
7	SAROC Groupings MRLGA Ceo to confirm the groupings representation clauses (including change in regional lga president, vice president and proxy (either specific or flexible nomination)).	– Completed. Regional LGA's cannot conduct voting (it must be done by LGA and SAROC Reps cannot have proxy's).
8	Procedure for items of business to National Ministerial Meetings LGA to advise of the process to achieve item(s) of business for Minsters Meetings (such as the ones highlighted below). • Local Government Ministers' Forum • Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting • National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting	– Inquiry made. Response from LGA received on 21/10
9	Letter to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons being a nominated representative on the SA Drought Advisory Group The MRLGA Board agree to co-sign a letter from MRLGA to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons as nominee for the role LGA representative on the SA Drought Advisory Working Group.	– Completed
10	Invite new Landscape Board Ceo MRLGA Ceo to invite the new Landscape Board Ceo (when known) to an MRLGA meeting, and inform them of a desire to discuss the region having the States highest landscape levy.	– Completed. New Ceo will visit Councils separately.

11	RDRP 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.	- Completed
12	RDRP 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 and report back to the Board on its progress".	- Underway
13	RDRP The Board support the MRLGA Ceo as the signing officer on funding proposals associated with RDRP funding."	- Part 1 Completed - Part 2 Underway
14	Personnel Changes The Board approve for its banking systems and forms to remove Mayor Phillips and add Mayor Bailey to the Banks SA and BBO system in line with President and Vice President appointments following the AGM.	- Underway, but is currently stalled with BankSA.
15	Flood Funding MRLGA Ceo to liaise with Mid Murray Council about the financials of flood funding and if it can write to the crap to access the remaining funds.	- Not yet commenced
16	MMC requested MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland	- Not yet undertaken
17	RPC requested: The need to list an agenda item for the Adelaide Freight Bypass (and risks/ potential impacts from the delivery stages of this project)	- Underway

Motion

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

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 October 2025 Update**
[President's Update – 13 October 2025 – ALGA](#)
 - o **ALGA – NGA 2025 Resolutions - Status**
[2025 NGA Resolutions – ALGA](#)
 - o **Submissions to:**
[Submissions – ALGA](#)
 - DCCEE's Implementing Australia's Strategy for Nature
 - Review part 5 of the Net Zero Economy Authority Act
 - Productivity Commission's Interim Report on clean energy and net zero
 - Climate Change Authority 2025 Issues Paper
 - Economic Reform Roundtable
 - o **Webinar GenAI in Local Government**
4 November 2025 (link below for more information and to register)
[Practical AI for local government – ALGA](#)
 - o **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.
 - o **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/resources/documents/members-only/member-services/member-services-updates/ECM_853382_v2_LGA-Member-Services-Priority-Projects-Update-LGA-Website-October-2025.pdf

- **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>

- **LGA Board Meeting** Minutes from 2 October 2025 is below:

Minutes of meeting starting 1:00pm

Website error. Link to the minutes was unable to be provided at the time of this agenda being prepared.

Minutes of meeting starting 1:15pm

[ECM_853771_LGA-Board-of-Directors-Meeting-Draft-Public-Minutes-2-October-2025-1.15pm.pdf](#)

Late Item – Algal Bloom Funding from LGA

[ECM_852403_v6_Late_Report_-_Funding_the_Algal_Bloom_Challenge_-_LGA_Board_of_Directors_-_2_October_2025](#)

- **LGA Special Board Meeting** Minutes from 14 October 2025 is below:

[ECM_853795_LGA-Board-of-Directors-Public-Draft-Minutes-14-October-2025.pdf](#)

- **Local Government Ministers Forum**

Last Meetings:

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

April 2025 (online)

November 2024 Communique:

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

April 2025 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	
24 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Networking Dinner
25 July 2025	Mayor & Ceo Forum
20 August 2025	Roads & Works Conference (Tailem Bend)
24 October 2025	Governance Network Forum
20 November 2025	Mayor Forum
21 November 2025	LGA AGM

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	Adelaide
2 October	2025	Renmark
4 December	2025	Adelaide

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

[SAROC Committee Meeting Book.pdf](#)

A link to the **October draft Minutes** is below:

[ECM 851951 v10 SAROC Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes - 2 October 2025.pdf](#)

For Discussion & Update

- **SAROC Representatives**

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

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.

- **LGA Board Nominations interfacing with Elections**

The term for current LGA Board and SAROC Members will end November 2026. Local Government Elections will be held in November 2026 and the appointment of new LGA Board and SAROC representatives will be advised by the LGA.

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

Due to a late request from MRLGA for updates, the following agency's news is not included at this time, although we can re-affirm some recent appointments:

Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland

- Bryan MacDonald, General Manager (started mid-September)

PIRSA- Principal Regional Advisor

- Barb Cowey

Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland

- Julie Bates, Ceo (started 13 Oct)

6.1 Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)

A copy of the regions Murray and Mallee 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 (Murray Bridge)
18 November	2025 (venue tbc)

Minutes from the meeting on 13 August 2025 have not yet been released.

6.2 Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event

A link to the Select Committee Report on the 2022-23 River Murray Flood Event is below. The report details 23 recommendations.

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

6.3 Murray Darling Association

Next Conference

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

Open forum discussion for any who attended.

Region 5

Region 5 Chair is Cr Margaret Howie (RPC)

A copy of the Minutes from the 8 September 2025 meeting can be found [Attachment 2](#).

Region 6

Region 6 Chair is Mayor Wayne Thorley (RCMB)

A copy of the Minutes from the 15 August 2025 meeting can be found [Attachment 3](#).

6.4 SA Drought Hub

Recent October news:

- Smart Grazing, Stronger Lands project funded to boost rangeland resilience
- Hub supports new Pre-emergent Herbicide Decision Guide
- SA Drought Hub champions the next generation through support for Student Compendium
- Harnessing data for resilience: key messages for producers from the Carbon Ready Ag Conference

The latest newsletter is August 2025. A copy can be found below:

[August 2025 Newsletter Update – Directors Welcome - SA Drought Hub](#)

The hub has also started engagement webinars (50mins with updates):

[Regional Engagement Update: A webinar for SA Drought Hub Members and Network Partners - SA Drought Hub](#)

MRLGA has inquired about the new organisational structure (in light of the withdrawal of regional nodes) and is waiting on a reply.

6.5 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

On 15 October 2025, MRLGA was contacted by Project Professor Mark Morrison from the Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences at Charles Sturt University.

It received funding for a project titled: **One Basin CRC Future Economies**. The project is looking to work with the three Riverland Councils / Loxton as a pilot site and MRLGA is liaising with Councils Ceo's o any future possible involvement.

6.6 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/>

6.7 Department of Environment & Water

Latest update on SA harmful algal bloom:

A link to the latest updates on the SA Algal Bloom is below:

[Algal Bloom Update](#)

A link to the State Government's algal bloom support package is below:

6.8 Country SAPHN

A link to its October 2025 News is found below:
[October 2025 Volume 11 Issue 9 - Country SA PHN](#)

Industry Education and Events

Mental Health Awareness Month – October 2025

Mental Health and AOD - October 2025 - Country SA PHN



National Safe Work Month - October

[National Safe Work Month 2025 | Safe Work Australia](#)

6.9 Country Arts

A link to available grants is below:
[Grants - Country Arts](#)

Current Opportunities :
[Opportunities - 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 State Public Health Plan

Development of the 2025 State Public Health Plan commenced in late 2024. The draft State Public Health plan was released for consultation on Monday 13 October. A link to the draft plan is below:

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

Public Consultation is open until 21 November 2025.

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 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.

7.4 State 30 Year Transport Plan

Completed and released March 2025.

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

7.5 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.

7.6 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\(External link\)](#).

7.7 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.”

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](#)

7.10 Federal News Items

Department of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development, Communication , Sport and the Arts

A list of the Federal Ministers with the Department is below:

[Ministers for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- As part of a Regulatory Impact Analysis a survey is open for feedback on the proposal to reduce the open road default speed limit.

This information has been provided to the MRLGA Regional Transport Committee.

[Regulatory Impact Analysis to reduce the open road default speed limit | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- “For the Good Of” campaign

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the new law which from 10 December 2025, means you will need to be over 16 to access social media accounts.

[Launch of advertising campaign “For the Good Of” | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- Communications sector prepares for the 2025-26 Higher Risk Weather Season
“Exercise Disconnect & Reconnect”

[Communications sector prepares for the 2025-26 Higher Risk Weather Season |](#)

[Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- For a link to other consultation items, please visit:

[Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

- Australia's 2035 emission reduction target (62-70%)

To help drive the transition to net zero, the Australian Government has set a target to reduce emissions to 62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035.

[Net Zero - DCCEEW](#)

They have also developed 6 Sector Plans. One sector is: Agriculture & Land. A link to the plan is below as an example:

[Agriculture and Land Sector Plan - DAFF](#)

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 Public Health & Wellbeing

Presentations

- **Emma Young** Country SAPHN, Executive Manager, Strategic Engagement

Emma will share insights from Country SAPHN, a brief overview of Public Health and the relationship for Local Government.

- **Amy Porcelli** Preventive Health SA

Amy will provide an overview of “Prevention” including principles, determinants of health, focus areas, partnerships and benefits.

- **Danielle Crisci** Preventive Health Officer (Riverland Preventive Health Partnership)

- **Zara Male** Preventive Health Officer (Murraylands Preventive Health Partnership)

Danielle and Zara will provide a glimpse into the research and early insights they have gathered to inform future work.

- **Professor Kirstin Ross** Flinders University, Environmental Health

An overview of Environmental Health Officers as well as increasing responsibilities, the workforce at large and awareness towards the cadet program.

Question time will be provided for at the end of each presentation.

For Information

Preventive Health Partnership

In June/July we welcomed to the :

Riverland Officer – Danielle Crisci

Murraylands Officer – Zara Male (commences August)

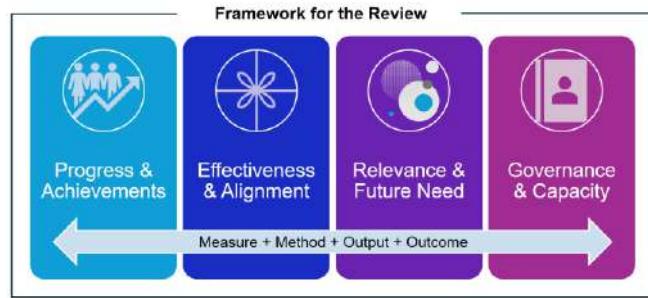
A co-design workshop for the:

- Riverland was held in Berri on 16 October 2025 approximately 20 people attended.
- Murraylands was held in Murray Bridge on 22 October 2025 approximately 30-35 people attended.

Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan – (Stage 1) Review

- The Review

Whilst there are guidelines for the review of Regional Public Health Plans there is no fixed framework. Therefore MRLGA has developed a framework with the Committee. This will assist MRLGA and all 8 Councils to agree on the scope of the review in order to determine (any) updates.



A project plan is under development that will identify key milestone dates for the Committee to inform steps in the process.

- Project Support
MRLGA has engaged Danielle Crisci, the Riverland Preventive Health Officer for 1 day per week on a short term basis to provide project support to the Ceo and Committee as part of the review of the regional plan.

Office of Sport Recreation and Racing Partnership

MRLGA and a representative from the District Council of Loxton Waikerie will liaise with ORSR on the Connected & Active Communities partnership and possible extension. MRLGA facilitated the program into the Riverland and will now pursue an expansion of the program into other Council(s) based on the learnings from the Riverland. This partnership model is intentionally structured directly between State and Councils (ie not MRLGA).

Communications – A connected network

We have provided the contact details of the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing committee members to service providers like Skylight who are doing significant promotional work at the moment in health service opportunities and mental wellbeing during drought so Councils can be informed and/or promote opportunities to its community's where appropriate.

8.2 Waste & Resource Recovery

For Information

Quarterly Update

The quarterly (written) update measuring waste data against strategic goals will be provided electronically on the day.

New Appointment, Samara Miller

Recruitment for the role of Circular Economy and Waste Lead finished in August. MRLGA welcomes Samara Miller who started in early September.

Waste Facility Tour a success – 19 September

MRLGA co-hosted another waste facility tour for staff and elected members on 19 September 2025 to Brinkley Landfill and Peats Composting. It was attended by approximately 25 representatives from Berri Barmera Council, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa Council and LGA. We received positive feedback that it helped grow waste literacy proving it to be a good return on investment. We plan to schedule one or more tours after the draft kerbside (waste review) report is finalised.

Waste Services Kerbside Review – Status

A draft report is nearing completion (ie 80%) for 5 of the Councils who are on a 3 Bin system. This project was identified as part of the regional strategy and will provide Councils with information about:

- How much food waste and garden waste is being placed in the red lid bin
- Why landfills seek to avoid food waste and garden waste from going to landfill

- Correlation between the red lid bin and the State Waste Levy
 - Options around 'level of service' (ie the frequency of kerbside collections and
 - Much more!
- It is planned that Councils will receive the draft report through briefing(s) before it is made final.

For Councils on a 2 bins system, MRLGA is liaising separately with:
 Mid Murray Council and its waste team while it does an internal review of the 2-bin system and its future options.
 District Council of Karoonda East Murray on alternative options.
 Southern Mallee District Council while it reviews its overarching model for waste management and kerbside services.

Waste Education (Annual program for the five participating councils)

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.

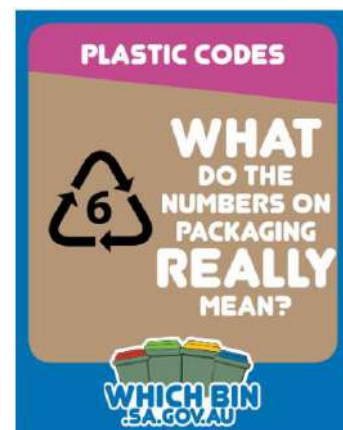
October news

- o A **Sustainability Calendar** can be found at [Attachment 4](#).
 The calendar was provided to all five council to display in accessible for staff as a trial for the promotion of events and awareness.
- o “ **Which Bin** ” – Amplifying the State Campaign !

Updated "Which Bin" promotional material has been done for all five Councils and provided to staff. MRLGA is now working with the three Riverland councils on a joint 'coms' plan to jointly amplify the campaign and build in activities for consistent and repeated messaging (as well as liaising with PIRSA to be congruent with its fruit fly campaign). People can self-explore using the links below.



Like to know more about "Green Bin Materials" Watch the movies below.
[What happens with green bin materials?](#)



Like to know more about:
[What do the numbers on plastics really mean?](#)



Promote 'helpful hints on how to reduce waste.

[Tips to avoid food waste this Christmas | Which Bin SA](#)



Promote 'Which Bin reminders' during holidays. We often see a rise in weekly waste during holidays.

[Christmas which list - naughty or nice? | Which Bin SA](#)

- **Set Your Clothes Free** – Textile Awareness and Recycling Event – Berri
[Set your clothes free | 1 November](#)
- **Safe Battery Disposal**
Due to increasing fires from batteries, we are looking to project more awareness for the safe disposal of batteries. Drop off locations have been researched and provided to Council staff and we will help update websites for people to find out where they can safely dispose of batteries.



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 Council staff
- Attended briefing sessions to share the results with elected members and
- an online presentation to MRLGA members

The findings of this audit are being used to help inform the Kerbside Waste Service Review and future waste education activities.

Green Industries SA's Circular Economy Opportunities



MRLGA Ceo has met with Green Industries Ceo to discuss circular economy opportunities in the region. Currently the Murraylands and Riverland region spends approximately \$750,000 - \$800,000 on the Waste levy.

8.3 Climate Ready Regions

For Information

Andrew Nesbitt (LGA) has completed the business case for regional 'climate' adaptation partnerships. The business case is open for final feedback before being used to advocate for medium term State and Federal funding.

The Program exists in metropolitan areas and is considered to work successfully. The metropolitan model is based on council funding contribution, whereas the regional model is not a prerequisite at this time.

8.4 Water Recovery

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

Background

Councils have been participating in working groups with PIRSA and regional stakeholders since April 2025 to inform opportunities to:

- Build, modify or investment in infrastructure that reduces water use and increased water efficiency and/or
 - Increase economic opportunities, and ones that preferable provide a direct link to increase in workforce or business regeneration
- This work remains in confidence at this time.

For Information

MDBA River Reflections Conference was held in Murray Bridge 29-30 July.

A copy of the MDBA September 2025 Update can be found at [Attachment 5](#).

For Decision

In preparation for the Sustainable Communities Program to open in November, MRLGA has been listening to regional stakeholders, assessing the economic landscape, watching for gaps and opportunities in conjunction with its current work and where it can play a small role to leverage opportunities.

Having considered:

- Existing Circular Economy Plan for Murraylands & Riverland (image shown above)
- Australia's adoption of 2035 Net Zero Targets
- SA Green Industries Draft Waste Strategy for 2030
- Intended purpose and goals of the SCP
- MRLGA's current strategy positions for waste and resource management
- MRLGA's maturity in waste management as a region and capacity building efforts across all Councils Infrastructure teams
- MRLGA's desire to support a circular/regenerative model for waste levy funds in regions

- MRLGA's developed relationships with key stakeholders (ie CIT, AMWHRA, Peats, EastWaste, Greenhill Energy, RIT, OneBasin, SA Drought Hub, MDA (R5+6) etc)

MRLGA seeks the boards endorsement to prepare an application to Sustainable Communities Program, seeking \$80,000 per annum for 3 years to match a request to Green Industries for equal funding and form a partnership for a central role to scope and deliver circular initiatives that reduce emissions, increase workforce, strengthen regional supply chains, value add within region and/or achieve the foundational work for industry to deliver on these goals. MRLGA will be proposing it provides in-kind support to host the role and be a critical strategic partner in project opportunity identification, execution and project management on a joint work plan.

Motion

"The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA Ceo to prepare a submission to the SCP in accordance with the scope parameters outlined above."

Moved,

Seconded

8.5 Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

For Information

The Future Drought Fund has entered a new 4 year chapter of funding. The table below provides an overview of the FDF programs in regards to the RDR Program.

	2024 - 2028					2028-2032					FDF Investment Programs	Delivery Agent
	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32				
\$28,000,000	1	2	Pending \$104,000,000								Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs.	SA Drought Hub
\$83,200,000	1	2	3	4	5						Farm Business Resilience program (incl Drought Resilience Scholarships).	
\$67,000,000		1	2	3	4						Regional Drought Resilience Planning program (4 Years)	Regional Consortia
\$60,300,000	1	2	3	4	5	6					Long-Term Trials program	
\$40,000,000	1	2	3	4	5	6					Resilient Landscapes program	
\$37,000,000		1	2	3							(New) Scaling Success program	
\$36,000,000	1	2	3	4							FDF Communities program	
\$20,000,000		1	2	3							Innovation Challenges Pilot	
\$17,200,000	1	2	3	4							Climate Services for Agriculture Program (and 'My Climate View').	
\$15,000,000	1	2	3	4							Place-based and First Nations-led activities (incl \$ for FN Advisory Group)	
\$11,400,000	1	2	3	4							Support monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)	

As part of the RDR Program, each region has received the opportunity to apply for:

- o \$140k for Implementation Plan Funding

The 'consortium' agreed to put the funding towards a resource (in light of no administration support from State or Federal Governments) to deliver the RDR program. The trial role was released to market as a Rural Resilience Coordinator who will be hosted at the Landscape Board (MR). The recruitment has now finished and a person will be announced before November. One core duty of the role will be to perform the 'red line' shown in the table above (ie help all stakeholders in our region plan, design and deliver drought preparedness initiatives across the FDF program with a goal of being more collaborative and/or coordinated).

- o \$300k for Delivery

This funding has been equally divided across the 'Consortium' (ie Landscape Board MR, RDA MR and MRLGA).

For any more background information or details, please refer to the last agenda papers from 31 July 2025.

Administration Costs

For Consideration and/or Decision

MRLGA does not plan to charge a % of the \$100k (delivery funding) for administration costs as part of participating and delivering work associated with the RDR Program in an attempt to ensure the funding can reach its intended audience.

However the RDR Program will be ongoing for 4 years (ie to end of 2027/28) and therefore the MRLGA will be playing a 'consortium partner' role for 4 years.

Noting the Landscape Board and RDA MR receive State and Federal funding the MRLGA Board may wish to consider:

- Is it appropriate for local government to seek a portion of the administration costs to act as a 'consortium partner'
- Is it appropriate for local government to seek a portion of the administration costs when it applies for delivery funding moving forward
- Asking what % the State Government receive from the Federal government to administer and deliver the RDR Program and if they have considered proportioning that to its local government partner in light of seeking their resources to deliver.
- Asking the State Government if it has consulted with local government (across the State) on its capacity to support RDR program work over the coming 4 years and if a state-wide agreement is a suitable approach, so as to keep some uniformity for all regional LGA's.

Noting there is complexity here. Not all Regional LGA's undertake drought preparedness or response and MRLGA is not intending too or structured to speak on behalf of all/other Regional LGA's.

Motion

"That the MRLGA Ceo liaise with PIRSA Ceo about the above listed items with a view to structuring an arrangement that supports regional local government associations to participate in drought prepared opportunities, but not at the expense of the councils operational and regional priorities that support the sustainability of local government."

Moved,

Seconded

Drought preparedness and response activities during the last quarter

For Information

MRLGA Ceo has :

- Monitored and kept up to date with the latest data from RBS for the state/region
- Met with PIRSA, SA's Drought Support Co-Ordinator
- Liaised with LGA SA Drought Advisory Group Representative Mayor Paul Simmons
- Attended the Drought Roundtable in Lamerloo, 30 September 2025 chaired by Minister Scriven
- Liaised with Drought Commissioner, Alex Zimmerman for regional intel
- Liaised with LGA Ceo and President on the Council Rate Deferral Scheme
- Continued work on the RDR Program in association with Landscape Board MR and RDA MR.
- Lodged an inquiry with PIRSA about the \$30m of drought support funding that is to be allocated to Farm Business Resilience and RDR program and over how many years (as no details are publicly provided yet).
- Liaised with SA Drought Hub representatives to keep informed of their work, intel and emerging opportunities in light of ongoing dry conditions and drought across the region.
- Liaised with Livestock SA Ceo and team about RDR project funding opportunities.
- Met with AgriWebb Ceo to explore possible opportunities for the region

8.6 MRLGA Strategic Plan

MRLGA's current strategic plan is up to 2025. The MRLGA Ceo Network is meeting on 6 November during which it will discuss and receive the groups initial feedback on a preferred approach to extending/modernizing the strategic direction. Please use any time before that date to have internal discussion if you have early ideas to submit.

8.7 MRLGA Policy Reviews

MRLGA's will be undertaking a review of its policy's in Q2 of 25/26 with a view to submitting any updates/modernisation to the Board at the next meeting in February 2026.

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](#).

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board accept the financial statements submitted for the quarter ending 30 September 2025.

Moved,

Seconded

9.2 Annual Report & Audit

The Associations Annual Report was completed and has been issued to all Councils.

The Associations Annual Audit has been completed by an independent auditor; Accru Harris. This included a copy of its Model Financial Statements that were also independently produced (separate to Accru Harris).

MRLGA holds an exemption from the Minister of Local Government for a risk and audit committee. This exemption is valid until 2026. An extension will be applied for before the next Annual Audit (for 25/26) commences.

A copy of the audit report can be found at [Attachment 6](#).

Motion

"That the MRLGA Board note the completion of the Model Financial Statements, release of the Annual Report and receipt of the audit report for the year ending 30 June 2025."

Moved,

Seconded

10 ROUND TABLE

10.1 Berri Barmera Council

Any items from Mayor Ella Winnall

- RLGF: Letter from Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray.
A copy of the letter can be found at [Attachment 7](#).
- Update post visit with RDA Murraylands & Riverland Board on 23 October 2025.

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.

10.2 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

10.3 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.

10.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray

Any items from Mayor Caroline Philips.

- DCKEM to initiate a local Murraylands Drought Survey (12 months on)

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.

10.5

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.

10.6

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.

10.7

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.

10.8 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

11 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2026 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
Board Meeting	5 February 2026	Lameroo
Board Meeting	April 2026	tbc
Board Meeting	July 2026 (AGM)	tbc

Caretaker period in the lead up to the 2026 Local Government Elections will likely commence September 2026.

Previous Annual General Board Meeting Minutes



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

DRAFT MINUTES

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
2:30pm	General Meeting Close
	Morning Tea and Light Lunch provided

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



MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

1	WELCOME.....	5
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	5
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	5
4	ACTIONS REGISTER.....	5
5	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS	8
5.1	ALGA	8
5.2	LGA of SA.....	8
5.3	SAROC Update	8
6	REGION WIDE AGENCY'S.....	11
6.1	Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland.....	11
6.2	PIRSA- Principal Regional Advisor	11
6.3	Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland	11
6.4	Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC).....	11
6.5	Standing Committee 22/23 River Murray Flood Event.....	11
6.6	Murray Darling Association	11
6.7	SA Drought Hub	11
6.8	One Basin CRC (Loxton).....	11
6.9	SAPOL.....	11
6.10	Department of Environment & Water	11
6.11	Country SAPHN.....	11
6.12	Country Arts.....	11
7	State Strategy's	12
7.1	Murray Mallee Regional Plan	12
7.2	State Waste Strategy.....	12
7.3	State Public Health Plan.....	12
7.4	State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy.....	12
7.5	State 30 Year Transport Plan.....	12
7.6	Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan.....	12
7.7	State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office.....	12
7.8	Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill	12
7.9	Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill	12
8	MRLGA : Quarterly reflections and/or current and emerging items	13
8.1	Waste & Resource Recovery	13
8.2	Public Health & Wellbeing	13
8.3	Climate Ready Regions.....	13
8.4	Water Advocacy	13
8.5	Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan).....	14

9	FINANCIAL	14
9.1	Quarterly Financial Statements	14
10	CONFIDENTIAL ITEM	14
10.1	Confidential Item.....	14
11	2025 / 2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET	15
11.1	Annual Business Plan and Budget	15
12	ROUND TABLE	15
12.1	Berri Barmera Council	15
12.2	Coorong District Council.....	15
12.3	District Council of Loxton Waikerie.....	15
12.4	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	16
12.5	Mid Murray Council.....	16
12.6	Renmark Paringa Council	16
12.7	Rural City of Muray Bridge	17
12.8	Southern Mallee District Council	17
13	APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT	18
14	APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT	18
15	CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING	18

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1	Minutes from Previous Board Meeting
ATTACHMENT 2	Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland - Update
ATTACHMENT 3	MDA Region 6 Meeting Minutes
ATTACHMENT 4	MRLGA – Waste Management & Resource Recovery – Regional Report
ATTACHMENT 5	Quarterly Financial Statements
ATTACHMENT 6	Confidential Item
ATTACHMENT 7	Confidential Item
ATTACHMENT 8	Mid Murry Council feedback to Draft ABP
ATTACHMENT 9	Renmark Paringa Council feedback to Draft ABP

1 WELCOME

MRLGA Presidents Welcome

Acknowledgment of Country

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).

Mayor Ella Winnall advised her position on Country Arts Board for any potential discussion that may broaden on Item 6.12.

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, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)**

Seconded, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)** **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</i> <i>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 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 Jetty 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 '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.' - Discussed 31 July 2025. Agreed to revisit in one year (assuming another consultation review will arise)
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.

Moved, Mayor Bailey (MMC)

Seconded, Mayor Thorley (RCMB)

Carried

5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

5.1 ALGA

- **Current Policy Work**
- **How ‘we’ represent local government**

Action:

MRLGA Ceo to speak with LGA (President /Ceo) about the process to have items listed on the Ministers Meetings.

- **Advocacy**
 - **ALGA President’s Update**
 - **2025 National General Assembly (NGA)** in Canberra 24-27 June 2025
 - **“Adapting Together”**
 - **Funding Emergency**
 - **Webinar GenAi in Local Government**
 - **2025 Roads Congress in Bendigo**
 - **The items above are open for any discussion** (no motions proposed).

5.2 LGA of SA

- **News**
 - **Topical Update**
 - **LGA Strategic Plan**
 - **Local Government Elections : Voting proposed to be mandatory**
 - **LGA Board Meeting** (link) to July Agenda was provided.
 - **Local Government Ministers Forum**
 - Andrew Lamb from LGA was available to receive questions.

Items discussed:

- LGA’s recruitment for a new Ceo may take approximately 3-6 months
- Drought advocacy has continued
- Remuneration for Mayors and Elected Members
- Biodiversity Bill and Native Vegetation Bill amendments underway. A query was raised if fauna is being addressed as equally as native vegetation.
- Ceo turn over in the sector
- Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill (status)

- **LGA Events**

5.3 SAROC Update

2 October 2025 Renmark (tbc)

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**

Further to the agenda, Mayor Simone Bailey provided a verbal update.

- Saroc has invited the LG Minister to the next meeting
- Waste updates
- Query around why Mayors did not receive an engagement session to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan, similar to the CEO's.
- Councils are keen to receive notice/information if/when a Minister is visiting the town/area.

A link to the SAROC Terms of Reference is below:

[LGA South Australia](#)

Board discussed:

- Consideration for a skills based board
- Voting procedures
- If Regional LGA Subsidiaries are permitted under the new terms of reference to 'assign' representation or proxy. LGA to confirm.
- If a Member's chamber considers an alternate rate notice template, it will inform the MRLGA CEO.
- LGA AGM Items of business are due 11 August 2025.

Action :

MRLGA CEO to confirm the groupings representation clauses (including change in regional LGA president, vice president and proxy (either specific or flexible nomination)).

Motion

"The MRLGA Board support the MRLGA CEO to liaise with Mayor Thorley on a potential motion to the LGA AGM (from Rural City of Murray Bridge) about advocacy towards the withdrawal of Council collecting State levy charges, and the concept of an alternative rate notice format for the sector that separates charges.

*Moved, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

– **Drought Response and Recovery**

Mayor Paul Simmons (SA Drought Advisory LGA Rep), MRLGA CEO and LGA, Andrew Lamb received questions.

- Mayor Norton acknowledged the effort and breadth of work that Mayor Simmons has achieved over the months and that his representation should continue on the advisory group with the support of MRLGA. All agreed.

- Confirmed that RBS numbers are still on the rise in the region and we will liaise with them directly to observe current numbers and trends.
- Proposed Council Rate Deferral Scheme
- Advocacy for Council Rate rebate

Motion

“The MRLGA Board agree to co-sign a letter from MRLGA to LGA in support of Mayor Simmons as nominee for the role LGA representative on the SA Drought Advisory Working Group.

*Moved, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Seconded, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Carried*

6 REGION WIDE AGENCY'S

6.1 Landscape Board Murraylands & Riverland

Action

MRLGA Ceo to invite the new Landscape Board Ceo (when known) to an MRLGA meeting, and inform them of a desire to discuss the region having the States highest landscape levy.

6.2 PIRSA - Principal Regional Advisor

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

A copy of the update is provided in the Minutes **Appendices 1**.

6.3 Regional Development Australia Murraylands & Riverland

No written update provided.

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

6.8 One Basin CRC (Loxton)

6.9 SAPOL

6.10 Department of Environment & Water Latest update on SA harmful algal bloom:

6.11 Country SAPHN

6.12 Country Arts

Motion

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

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

*Seconded, **Mayor Winnall (BBC)***

Carried

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\(External link\)](#).

Discussion

- Queries / concern around the methods to determine future housing was raised and Riverland Local Government Forum agreed it would list the item for its next meeting.

7.2 State Waste Strategy

7.3 State Public Health Plan

7.4 State 30 Year Public Transport Strategy

7.5 State 30 Year Transport Plan

7.6 Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan

7.7 State Development Coordination and Facilitation Office

7.8 Drought Response & Recovery Coordination Bill

7.9 Council Rates, Electricity Generator Bill

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

Quarterly Update

Recruitment

State Waste Strategy - Submission

Waste Education (Annual program)

Kerbside Waste Audit Results

Green Industries SA's Circular Economy Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

Waste Facility Tours

8.2 Public Health & Wellbeing

Preventive Health Partnership

Office of Sport Recreation and Racing Partnership

Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Plan - Review and Update Milestones

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

State Public Transport Strategy – Online Consultation Session

8.3 Climate Ready Regions

8.4 Water Advocacy

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

Discussion

The types of questions that could be useful to ask of PIRSA:

- If the business case funding is taken from the \$20m
- If access to the \$20m will be through a grant application
- If PIRSA will develop its own criteria for grant application to the \$20m that links investment to locations of water buy backs (or not).
- Will PIRSA be considering the Sefton Report.
- How much of the \$250k for stakeholder engagement has been expended.

SMDC commented that it's been unfortunate not to be consulted with about ground water as its pursued this work. Victoria has advanced work in this space and we should be doing more.

8.5 Regional Drought Resilience Program (MR Plan)

Part 1 - \$140k Implementation Plan Funding

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, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)***

Carried

Part 2 - \$300k Delivery Funding

Discussed:

- Due diligence had been conducted to understand if a partnership project across the consortium existed (and it did not).
- That research to date has identified possible gaps in 'preparedness' that is emerging as the following themes below.
- That RDAMR may be pursuing an off farm income 'theme' and mental health 'theme' with delivery funding.
- Councils who have met with Alex Zimmerman (including MMC, DCLW, CDC, MRLGA)

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, **Mayor Simmons (CDC)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)***

Carried

9 FINANCIAL

9.1 Quarterly Financial Statements

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

Motion

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

*Moved, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)***

*Seconded, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)***

Carried

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, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Seconded, **Mayor Thorley (RCMB)** Carried*

All non-board members left the room.

11 2025 / 2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

11.1 Annual Business Plan and Budget

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, **Mayor Valentine (SMDC)** Seconded, **Mayor Bailey (MMC)** Carried*

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

Mayor Paul Simmons reminded all:

- The team at CDC has made great progress for East Wellington and water supply with SA Water
- The LGA Roads and Works conference is coming up at "The Bend"

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

Mayor Trevor Norton discussed:

- Request to receive more information about waste charges

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

Mayor Caroline Philips confirmed the town now has a Doctor.

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

Mayor Simone Bailey discussed:

- If others are experiencing debt from the river murray flood as they have a council report in 2 weeks to discuss the matter at MMC.

Request

- MRLGA Ceo to invite Hon Kirsty McBain to tour the Murraylands and Riverland

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

Mayor Peter Hunter raised:

- The need to list an agenda items for the Adelaide Freight Bypass (and risks/ potential impacts from the delivery stages of this project)
- Provided feedback that the education tours to Brinkley Landfill and Peats Composting was great.
- Saroc is visiting RPC on 2 Oct
- No progress on the 'navigation' of the river letter
- MMR LHN has 2 new resources (post the mental health services review)

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

Mayor Ron Valentine tabled:

- That the timing of the federal election meant that the Select Committee undertaking an Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government has dissolved and it will therefore not be publishing a final report, only the interim report will be published. Discussed what process could be taken to get it to the point of a final publication.

Past items included:

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

12.9 MRLGA Ceo – Recognition of Mayor Phillips as President

- MRLGA Ceo Carron McLeod recognised the significant contributions Mayor Phillips has made throughout her three-year term as President. Mayor Phillips has shown great leadership to foster a positive, collaborative and collegiate culture among Mayors and Councils. She brought strategic wisdom, transparency and a consistently constructive, can-do attitude, always demonstrating respect for those around her. We wish to thank her for the enormous time she has provided over the years to progress the vision of the Association and forge a pathway of being stronger together.
- The Board expressed its sincere appreciation with a heartfelt round of applause.

13 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT

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

Nominations for position of President was called for.

Mayor Bailey nominated Mayor Winnall.

Mayor Winnall accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Chair announced the sole nomination and asked for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

"That Mayor Winnall is appointed as President of the Subsidiary.

*Moved, **Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

14 APPOINTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT

The Chair called for nominations for position of Vice President.

Mayor Valentine nominated Mayor Bailey.

Mayor Bailey accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Chair announced the sole nomination and asked for a Member to move a motion in relation to the item.

Motion

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

*Moved, **Mayor Phillips (DCKEM)** Seconded, **Mayor Norton (DCLW)** Carried*

15 CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

2025 Meeting Schedule :

Meeting Type	Month	Venues (tbc)
Board Meeting	Thursday 30 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.

Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 5 Minutes



Notes of the MDA Region 5 Ordinary Meeting
held electronically via Microsoft Teams on
Monday 8 September 2025 commencing at 10:00 AM



1 Welcome & Opening

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the River Murray as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet and respect their spiritual relationship with their country and the importance of their cultural beliefs.

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00am.

2 Present

Cr Margaret Howie (Chair)	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Andrew Kassebaum (Deputy Chair)	Berri Barmera Council
Mayor Peter Hunter	Renmark Paringa Council
Mayor Simone Bailey	Mid Murray Council
Mayor Trevor Norton	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Mark Lamb	CEO, Murray Darling Association
Tim Zeller	Communications & Engagement Officer, Murray Darling Association
Ruth Sutton	Secretariat, Renmark Paringa Council
Kate Bartlett (guest)	Regional Engagement Officer, Murray- Darling Basin Authority
Tom Wheeler-Chesters (guest)	Southern Strategic Relations Representative, Office of the Inspector-General Water Compliance
Troy Grant (guest)	Inspector-General, Office of the Inspector- General Water Compliance

3 Apologies

Cr Craig Ferber	District Council of Loxton Waikerie
-----------------	-------------------------------------

4 Declarations of Interest

Nil

5 Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

5.1 Confirmation of the minutes from the meeting held 16 June 2025

Resolution MDA2025-5

Moved Andrew Kassebaum Seconded Mark Lamb

That the minutes of the MDA Region 5 ordinary meeting held on 16 June 2025 be received.

CARRIED

6 Business Arising from the minutes

Nil.

Item 8.1 was moved forward in the agenda by the Chair.

8.1 MDA CEO Update

MDA CEO Mark Lamb's report was taken as read.

Mayor Peter Hunter joined the meeting at 10:06am.

Mark addressed the following items:

- An overview of the upcoming MDA National Conference program.
- The Carp Control Program.

Guest Troy Grant, Inspector-General Water Compliance, joined the meeting at 10:10am.

Mayor Trevor Norton joined the meeting at 10:12am.

Item 7.2 was moved forward in the Agenda by the Chair.

7 Guest Speaker

7.2 Troy Grant, Inspector-General Water Compliance

Troy Grant, Inspector-General, from Inspector-General of Water Compliance attended the meeting and discussed the following with the Committee:

- An overview of the office of the Inspector-General Water Compliance (IGWC), and history thus far.
- Reports due to be published in the next 6-12 months.
- Upcoming reviews: statutory review, plan review, and Water Act review.
- Connecting the IGWC to the local government level.
- [Community Sentiment Survey](#).
- One-third of water licence holders are not aware they are in the Murray Darling Basin. The IGWC would like the assistance of the MDA Regions to spread education and awareness on the Basin Plan.

Kate Barlett joined the meeting at 10:24 am.

Troy Grant left the meeting at 10:39 am.

Item 7.1 was moved back in the Agenda by the Chair. Agenda items were moved during the meeting to accommodate external guests availability to join the meeting online.

7.1 Kate Bartlett, Murray Darling Basin Authority

Kate Bartlett, Regional Engagement Officer, Murray-Darling Basin Authority provided a brief presentation updating the Region 5 Committee on the following:

- Current Basin storage capacities and flows.
- 2026 Basin Plan Review timeline and current stage.
- Sustainable Rivers Audit
- Overview of the MDBA 2025 River Reflections conference held in July 2025.
- General update on current and soon-to-be released [MDBA publications](#).
- DCCEE update.

8 General Business and Reports

Item 8.1 was addressed earlier in the meeting.

9 Closure

9.1 Next meeting

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every third month.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 December, hosted by Mid Murray Council at the Mannum Principal Office. Virtual attendance will also be arranged.

9.2 Closure

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:01 am.

Murray Darling Association (MDA) Region 6 – Meeting Minutes



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

Minutes

Date: 15 August 2025
Time: 10.30am – 12noon
Location: Coorong District Council

1. WELCOME

Meeting Opened at 10:36am

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 (PROXY)	Coorong District Council	Apology
Cr Jonathon Pietzsch	Coorong District Council	Apology
Cr Brenton Qualmann	Coorong District Council	Apology
Tracey Strugnell for B. Mather	Coorong District Council	X
Cr Michael Scott	Alexandrina Council	X
Cr Milli Livingston	Alexandrina Council	Via Teams
CEO Andrew MacDonald	Alexandrina Council	Apology
Cr Carol Schofield	City of Victor Harbor	Apology
Kathy Hayter (PROXY)	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	Apology
CEO Jason Beaton (PROXY)	Southern Mallee District Council	Apology
Individual Members		
Adrian Pederick, MP JP		Apology
Colin Grundy		Apology
Warren Jacobs		Apology
Executive Officer		
Samara McKenzie		X



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

2.3 Guests

- Kate Bartlett, Murray Darling Basin Authority - Apology
- Richard Mintern, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Mark Lamb, Murray Darling Association

2.4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

NIL

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from Ordinary Meeting 20 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of 20 June 2025 be endorsed as a true record of the meeting.

MOVED: Cr Michael Scott

SECONDED: Mayor Liz Goosens

CARRIED

4. STANDING REPORTS

4.1 Region 6 Chair Update

Mayor Thorley provided a verbal update on the *River Reflections* Conference.

4.2 MDA CEO Update

Mark Lamb provided a verbal update and a written report (**Attachment 3**), covering several key areas:

- **Governance Update:**
A change in leadership has taken place, with the appointment of a new Chair and Deputy Chair, forming a solid leadership team.
- **Region 6 Motions:**
Motions from Region 6 are welcomed by the end of August.
- **Carp Control and Recent Press Release:**
A recent press release addressed the issue of carp in the river system and the proposed release of the carp herpesvirus (*Cyprinus cyprinidallo3*) as a biocontrol agent.
 - National Carp Control Plan (November 2022) linked: [The National Carp Control Plan](#)
- **Upcoming Event:**
The MDA National Conference will be held in Griffith beginning 29 September.

4.3 MDBA Update

- MDBA August 2025 Update was tabled. (**Attachment 4**)

4.4 Member Updates

- NIL

4.5 Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Update – Richard Mintern

Richard Mintern provided a verbal update and Power Point presentation 'Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder – Who we are and what we do?' (**Attachment 5**)



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

RECOMMENDATION:

That all Reports be received.

MOVED: Cr Michael Scott

SECONDED: Mayor Liz Goossens CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 National MDA 2025 AGM Motions

Verbal discussion occurred around Draft Proposed motions in based on the endorsed Strategic Focus Areas:

- a) Economic Development
- b) Advocacy and Membership
- c) Environment
- d) Human water needs/water movement

The following motions were supported for inclusion at the National MDA 2025 AGM, as detailed in **Attachment 6:**

Motion 1: Addressing the Long-Term Impacts of Growth on River Resources in GARP and Broader Region 6

Motion Text

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Acknowledges** the ongoing 2026 Basin Plan Review being led by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), including the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation, Sustainable Rivers Audit, Sustainable Yields assessments, and the release of key discussion papers and the final report.
 2. **Recognises** the extensive scientific, environmental, economic, and social analysis being undertaken for the Review - particularly the increased focus on social and economic condition data in the 2025 Evaluation and its companion reports.
 3. **Affirms** that towns within Region 6 - including Goolwa, Milang, Meningie, Murray Bridge, Taillem Bend, Narrung, Clayton Bay, Hindmarsh Island, and others along the Lower Lakes, Coorong, and Limestone Coast — are experiencing ongoing population growth, infrastructure development, and increased tourism. These communities have distinct ecological and economic interdependencies with the River Murray and the adjacent coastal system.
 4. **Urges** the MDBA to explicitly incorporate localised and region-specific growth trajectories into the Review's modelling, social and economic impact assessments, and policy scenario testing, recognising that static or aggregate models do not reflect the dynamic evolution of Region 6 communities.
 5. **Requests** that the MDBA engage directly with Region 6 councils, local government authorities, First Nations groups, and stakeholders to collect and incorporate local data on growth, development, tourism, demographic change, and water use.
 6. **Calls** for the final outcomes of the 2026 Basin Plan Review - including revised Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) settings - to contain region-level, adaptive recommendations that enable
-



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

sustainable community and economic growth in Region 6, while maintaining vital environmental flows.

7. **Directs** the Region 6 Executive to monitor MDBA progress through six-monthly reports and public forums, and to report back to Region 6 members ahead of the MDA's 2026 National Conference.

Rationale:

Region 6 is an ecologically and economically significant area at the end of the Murray system, with rapidly evolving towns whose water needs and community dynamics are distinct. The 2026 Basin Plan Review must integrate this reality through region-specific data, modelling, and engagement — ensuring sustainable outcomes for both the environment and local communities.

MOVED: Cr Michael Scott

SECONDED: Heather Barclay CARRIED

Motion 2: Advocating for Sustainable Water Resource Planning in Response to Growth in the Greater Adelaide Region

Motion Text:

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Acknowledges** the significant population and development growth occurring within the Greater Adelaide Region Plan (GARP) area and surrounding parts of Region 6, and the increasing reliance on the River Murray as a primary water source.
2. **Recognises** the ecological and hydrological limits of the River Murray and the long-term risks posed by continuous demand growth on this finite natural resource.
3. **Calls** for the MDA to actively engage with the South Australian Government to facilitate more robust and transparent dialogue around long-term water security planning - specifically, the implications of growth in GARP and the need for sustainable and diversified water sourcing strategies.
4. **Advocates** for the inclusion of natural resource capacity assessments, alternative water supply planning, and inter-agency collaboration in future state-led growth planning frameworks.

Rationale:

With continued growth in GARP and nearby communities, the pressure on the River Murray is intensifying. This growth trajectory, if not matched with forward-thinking water planning, risks undermining environmental health and future water availability. The State Government must be engaged more proactively to ensure that long-term planning for population, housing, and economic growth is underpinned by sustainable water use and resource diversification. This motion reinforces the



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

need for Region 6's voice in those critical state-level conversations.

MOVED: Mayor Liz Goossens

SECONDED: Cr Michael Scott CARRIED

Motion 3: MDA Representation on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Board

Proposed by: Region 6, Murray Darling Association (MDA)

Motion Text:

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Proposes** that the Chair or President of the Murray Darling Association be appointed as an **ex officio** member of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Board.
2. **Advocates** to the Commonwealth Government and relevant ministers for this governance change to ensure formal representation of local government perspectives and regional interests in Basin-wide decision-making.

Rationale:

The MDA represents a broad coalition of local governments, communities, and stakeholders across the Murray-Darling Basin. Including the MDA Chair or President as an **ex officio** member of the MDBA Board would strengthen regional representation, improve transparency, and ensure that local insights inform national water management policy. Given the complex and community-dependent nature of the Basin Plan, this structural reform would enhance collaboration and accountability at the highest level.

MOVED: Cr Michael Scott

SECONDED: Mayor Liz Goossens CARRIED

5.2 Region 6 Annual Report (**Attachment 5**)

5.3 Actions from previous Ordinary Meetings

- Please note previous actions have been updated and old/not relevant actions have been removed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The meeting notes the updates to the Action List and resolves that the Annual Report be submitted to MDA and that the discussed Motions in Item 5.1 be referred to MDA National for consideration and inclusion at the MDA 2025 National AGM.

Cr Milli Livingston left the meeting 11:40

MOVED: Heather Barclay

SECONDED: Michael Scott

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- **SARDI Presentation.**
-



Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

-
- Cr Michael Scott suggested the possibility of a future presentation from South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).
 - **Future Presentation from Professor Nick Harvey**
 - Mayor Thorley proposed inviting Professor Nick Harvey (Flinders University) to present at a future MDA meeting, potentially in November in conjunction with the AGM.

ACTION: Executive Officer to follow up on above mentioned invitations.

- **Water Security and Extension Work**

Ms Tracey Strugnell shared an area of interest, highlighting current work in securing water on-farm and reducing reliance on pipeline water.
- **North Coorong Algae Issue**
 - Richard Mintern reported ongoing collaboration with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) regarding the current algae present in the North Coorong.

7. **NEXT MEETING**
10:30am on Friday 21 November, Alexandrina Council

8. **CLOSE**
Meeting closed at 12:08pm

The Murray Darling Association acknowledges and thanks the Coorong District Council for its support in hosting this meeting of Region 6.



Attachment 1

Murray Darling Association Inc.

Ordinary General Meeting - Region 6

REGION 6 MEMBERSHIP As of August 2025				
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	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 Jason Beaton	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
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	Consider Inter-region meeting with Regions 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in Adelaide.	Executive Officer	
August 2025 / 5.1	Submit MDA Region 6 Motions to MDA National for inclusion in the MDA National 2025 AGM	Executive Officer	
August 2025 / 5.2	Submit MDA Region 6 Annual Report 2024/25 to MDA National	Executive Officer	
August 2025 / Other Business	Coordinate a potential future presentation by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) at an upcoming MDA meeting	Executive Officer	
August 2025 / Other Business	Send an invitation Professor Nick Harvey (Flinders University) to present at a future MDA meeting.	Executive Officer	



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 further correspondence to Hon Susan Close MP



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
5.10	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.

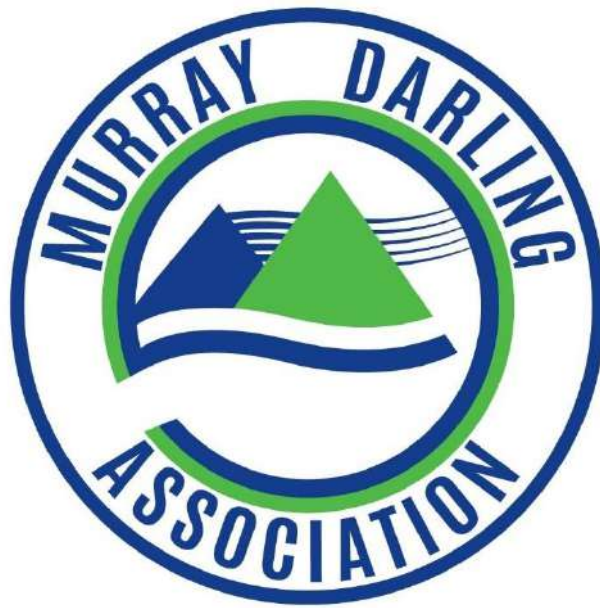


Murray Darling Association Inc.

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

July 2025

Mark Lamb

m.lamb@mda.asn.au

Contents

1. Introduction	2
Governance.....	3
2. Membership.....	3
3. Advocacy	3
4. Partnerships, collaboration and engagement	4
5. CSIRO and the Circular Economy	4
6. Key Meetings and Engagements	5
7. 81 st National Conference and AGM	5
8. Engagement Report on the benefits of membership:.....	6

1. Introduction

In addition to addressing 'business-as-usual' activities, we have focused on key strategic deliverables, including:

- **Membership Growth:** Expanding our member base
- **Circular Economy Projects:** Finalizing and implementing key projects
- **Conference and AGM:** Organizing 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.

Since the last meeting 429 on 12th May, Region 7 has elected a new Chair, Cr Therese Britton La Salle from Campbelltown in Adelaide, SA. Cr Andrew Tilley is the Vice Chair of Region 7.

We are delighted to work with the new leadership team and Board at the MDA. The full Board is listed below:

- Region 1: raissa.butkowski@alburycity.nsw.gov.au
- Region 2: geoffdobson260@gmail.com
- Region 4: jim.hickey@brokenhill.nsw.gov.au
- Region 5: crhowie@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au
- Region 6: mayor@murraybridge.sa.gov.au
- Region 7: cr.brittonlasalle@campbelltown.sa.gov.au
- Region 9: sblumer@griffith.com.au
- Region 10: chris@roylances.com.au
- Region 11: r.webb@tamworth.nsw.gov.au
- Region 12: robyn.fuhrmeister@balonne.qld.gov.au
- Peter George remains on our Board as Treasurer.

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.

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. The MDA is also continuing to develop its relationship with the CSIRO.
- **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 were also invited to speak at the Darling Downs and South-West Queensland Council of Mayors. 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, Murray Watt. 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 recently met with the MDBA CEO, Andrew McConville. This meeting both served to raise critical Basin Issues and advocacy opportunities, but also confirmed the MDBA's interest in engaging with the Murray Darling Association as a vehicle to engage with Basin Communities.

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
16/5/25	Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors	Attended Virtually
22/5/25	MDBA: Online Session – Social and Economic Impacts of the Basin Plan AND Basin Plan Review Roadmap Update	Held Virtually
5/6/25	Interview with the NRC: MDA Region 11	Held Virtually
6/6/25	CSIRO Webinar: Fork in the Road – Time to choose the food system we want	Held Virtually
13/6/25	Stakeholder Meeting: Quarterly Meeting – Circular Economy	Held Virtually
18/6/25	Meeting with Bridget Ransome: N&Y LGA	Adelaide, SA
24/6/25	One Basin CRC: Partner Briefing Update	Held Virtually
25/6/25	One Basin CRC: Water Nexus	Held Virtually
27/6/25	Meeting with Andrew McConville	Held Virtually
9/7/25	One Basin CRC Leadership Camp: Follow through meeting	Held Virtually
11/7/25	Meeting with Walkerville Council	Held Virtually
16/7/25	One Basin CRC Annual Event Q&A Drop in session for Research Project Co-Leads	Held Virtually

7. 81st National Conference and AGM

Basin collaboration: Our Communities, Our Environment

Join us in Griffith, where local, technical, and political leaders will come together to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future for councils, catchments, and communities.

Located in the South-west of NSW, Griffith is an agriculturally rich region heavily reliant on irrigation from the Murrumbidgee River. Griffith's prosperity and sustainability are directly linked to the water availability managed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

A lively, cosmopolitan city, Griffith is a hub to the surrounding farming districts! With great local food producers, Wineries, Breweries, Distilleries and passionate chefs it is little wonder Griffith has become the newest destination for foodies! Griffith will delight you from start to finish. One short stay will not be enough!

The National Conference is an incredible opportunity for our local leaders to come together from across the Murray-Darling Basin to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and to engage with leading innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time.

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.

2025 Annual General Meeting

Date: 1 OCT 2025

Venue: Yoogali Club, Griffith NSW

Time: 3:30pm

[Submission of Motions](#)

[Nomination Form: Proxy AGM](#)

Motions resolved at the AGM form the foundations of the MDA's leadership and advocacy work for the year and years ahead, by providing effective representation of local government and communities at a state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by exchanging information, facilitating debate, and seeking to influence government policy.

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 August 2025

Storages as at 30 July are to the left with TOTAL basin storage at 5109GL or 59%.
Southern Basin at 60%, Northern Basin at 69%.

Basin Plan Evaluation [2025 Basin Plan Evaluation | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

What has been achieved and lessons learned from 13 years of implementation

Sustainable River Audit [Sustainable Rivers Audit | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

Will provide a baseline for the 2025 Outlook to be released later this year

You can Click on Lower Murray to find out the SA Results quickly

MDBA

- MDBA River Reflections Conference was held in Murray Bridge 29-30 July
 - 23 Community Forum Members attended
 - Sold out with three weeks to go
- Community Forum Group being held in August
- Basin Community Committee meet on 31 July
 - Presentations on Basin Plan Evaluation and Sustainable River Audit
- New Publications Released [Publications | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

DCCEEW

- Basin Plan Implementation Update Webinar THURSDAY, 14 August
 - [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program has seen two more purchases
 - [Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program - DCCEEW](#)
 - Applications open for Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies grant
- Sustainable Communities Program is moving forward in South Australia
- Volumes and prices summary of volumes purchased per catchment as at 25 July through the 2023 & 2024 Strategic Water Purchasing Tenders. Table 1 & 2 show the total volume and average price per catchment
 - [Strategic water purchasing – Bridging the Gap - DCCEEW](#)

As always ring or email if you have any questions



Rivers, for generations.

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



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder



CEWH – who are we and what do we do?

15 August 2025

Richard Mintern

Local Engagement Officer

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder



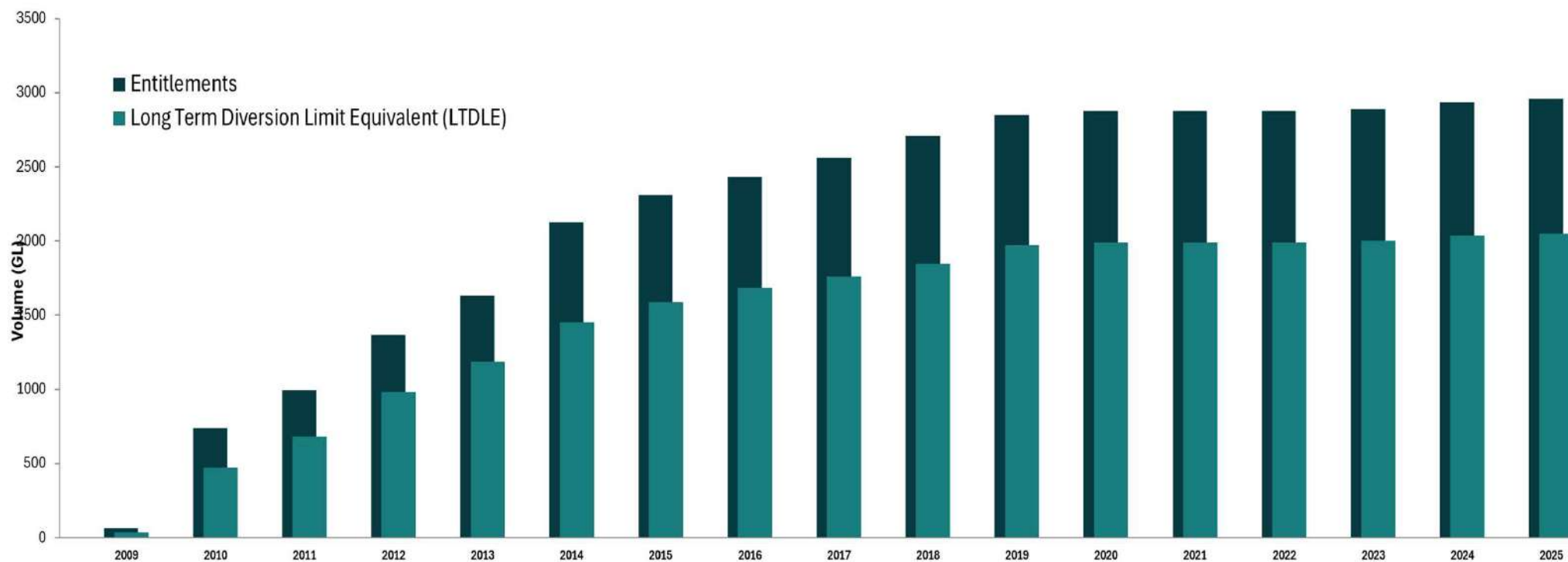


We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Artist: Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder staff, under the guidance of Rebecca Salcole

Making a difference with environmental water

Commonwealth environmental water holdings – a \$10 billion public asset



Making a difference with environmental water





Banrock Station 2014



Banrock Station 2019

OFFICIAL

Flow Monitoring Evaluation and Research (Flow-MER)

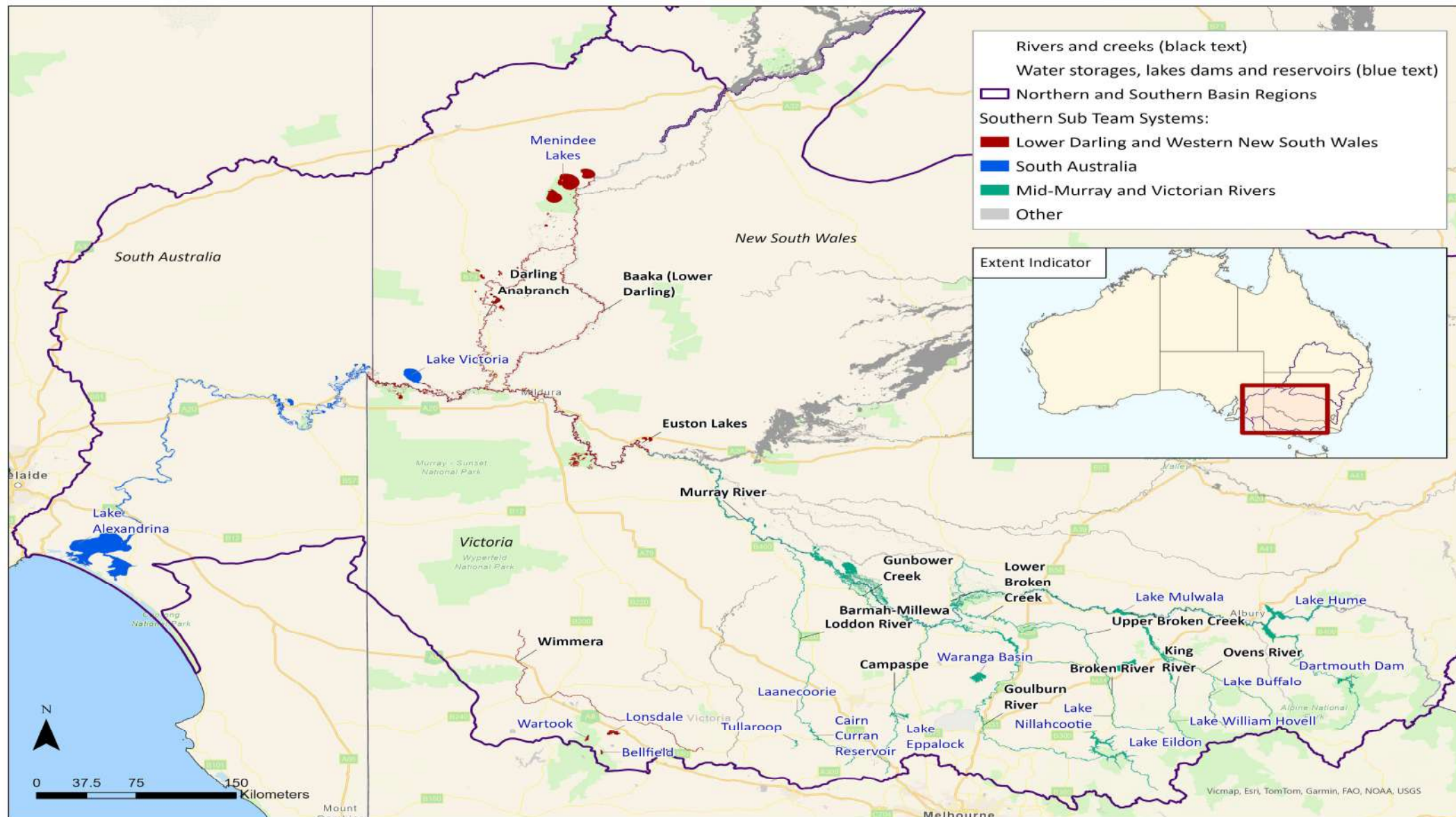




Planned and active actions

- Goulburn
 - Some large pulses active and planned
 - Winter fresh
 - Passing fresh from upper Goulburn
 - Spring pulse
 - Cumulative up to ~330 GL July to October
- Direct trade
 - 30 GL to be delivered in September
- Multi-site releases from Hume
 - Planned for spring, but at reduced flow rates.





Thank you

Subscribe to our CEWH Update:



SCAN HERE

Get in touch:

  @theCEWH

ewater@dcceew.gov.au

Contact Richard Mintern 0437 218649
(richard.mintern@dcceew.gov.au) to yarn
about all things e-water!

Dharriwaa (Narran Lakes)
Photo: Shot by Harro, UNSW

Motion 1: Addressing the Long-Term Impacts of Growth on River Resources in GARP and Broader Region 6

Proposed by: Region 6, Murray Darling Association (MDA)

Motion Text

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Acknowledges** the ongoing 2026 Basin Plan Review being led by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), including the 2025 Basin Plan Evaluation, Sustainable Rivers Audit, Sustainable Yields assessments, and the release of key discussion papers and the final report.
 2. **Recognises** the extensive scientific, environmental, economic, and social analysis being undertaken for the Review - particularly the increased focus on social and economic condition data in the 2025 Evaluation and its companion reports.
 3. **Affirms** that towns within Region 6 - including Goolwa, Milang, Meningie, Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Narrung, Clayton Bay, Hindmarsh Island, and others along the Lower Lakes, Coorong, and Limestone Coast — are experiencing ongoing population growth, infrastructure development, and increased tourism. These communities have distinct ecological and economic interdependencies with the River Murray and the adjacent coastal system.
 4. **Urges** the MDBA to explicitly incorporate localised and region-specific growth trajectories into the Review's modelling, social and economic impact assessments, and policy scenario testing, recognising that static or aggregate models do not reflect the dynamic evolution of Region 6 communities.
 5. **Requests** that the MDBA engage directly with Region 6 councils, local government authorities, First Nations groups, and stakeholders to collect and incorporate local data on growth, development, tourism, demographic change, and water use.
 6. **Calls** for the final outcomes of the 2026 Basin Plan Review - including revised Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) settings - to contain region-level, adaptive recommendations that enable sustainable community and economic growth in Region 6, while maintaining vital environmental flows.
 7. **Directs** the Region 6 Executive to monitor MDBA progress through six-monthly reports and public forums, and to report back to Region 6 members ahead of the MDA's 2026 National Conference.
-

Rationale:

Region 6 is an ecologically and economically significant area at the end of the Murray system, with rapidly evolving towns whose water needs and community dynamics are distinct. The 2026 Basin Plan Review must integrate this reality through region-specific data, modelling, and engagement — ensuring sustainable outcomes for both the environment and local communities.

Motion 2: Advocating for Sustainable Water Resource Planning in Response to Growth in the Greater Adelaide Region

Proposed by: Region 6, Murray Darling Association (MDA)

Motion Text:

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Acknowledges** the significant population and development growth occurring within the Greater Adelaide Region Plan (GARP) area and surrounding parts of Region 6, and the increasing reliance on the River Murray as a primary water source.
 2. **Recognises** the ecological and hydrological limits of the River Murray and the long-term risks posed by continuous demand growth on this finite natural resource.
 3. **Calls** for the MDA to actively engage with the South Australian Government to facilitate more robust and transparent dialogue around long-term water security planning - specifically, the implications of growth in GARP and the need for sustainable and diversified water sourcing strategies.
 4. **Advocates** for the inclusion of natural resource capacity assessments, alternative water supply planning, and inter-agency collaboration in future state-led growth planning frameworks.
-

Rationale:

With continued growth in GARP and nearby communities, the pressure on the River Murray is intensifying. This growth trajectory, if not matched with forward-thinking water planning, risks undermining environmental health and future water availability. The State Government must be engaged more proactively to ensure that long-term planning for population, housing, and economic growth is underpinned by sustainable water use and resource diversification. This motion reinforces the need for Region 6's voice in those critical state-level conversations.

Motion 3: MDA Representation on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Board

Proposed by: Region 6, Murray Darling Association (MDA)

Motion Text:

That the Murray Darling Association:

1. **Proposes** that the Chair or President of the Murray Darling Association be appointed as an **ex officio** member of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Board.
 2. **Advocates** to the Commonwealth Government and relevant ministers for this governance change to ensure formal representation of local government perspectives and regional interests in Basin-wide decision-making.
-

Rationale:

The MDA represents a broad coalition of local governments, communities, and stakeholders across the Murray-Darling Basin. Including the MDA Chair or President as an **ex officio** member of the MDBA Board would strengthen regional representation, improve transparency, and ensure that local insights inform national water management policy. Given the complex and community-dependent nature of the Basin Plan, this structural reform would enhance collaboration and accountability at the highest level.

Murray Darling Association Region 6 Chairperson's Report – 2024/25

Region 6 of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) comprises seven councils, of which six are financial members:

- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Alexandrina Council
- Coorong District Council
- City of Victor Harbor
- Tatiara District Council
- Southern Mallee District Council

Kingston District Council is currently not a financial member of Region 6. The region also includes eight individual members.

The Committee is made up of:

CHAIR

Chair Mayor Wayne Thorley – Rural City of Murray Bridge (from 2 February 2024 and re-elected 28 February 2025)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Mayor Wayne Thorley, Rural City of Murray Bridge

Heather Barclay, Rural City of Murray Bridge - General Manager Assets and Infrastructure

Bridget Mather, District Council of Coorong - Chief Executive Officer

Andrew MacDonald, Alexandrina Council - Chief Executive Officer

COMMITTEE

3 February 2024 to 20 February 2026 (14 Members - 4 Proxy Members)

Alexandrina Council

- Councillor, Michael Scott, Alexandrina Council
- Councillor, Milli Livingston, Alexandrina Council
- Chief Executive Officer, Andrew MacDonald, Alexandrina Council

Rural City of Murray Bridge

- Mayor, Wayne Thorley, Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Councillor, Airlie Keen, Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Chief Executive Officer, Heather Barclay, Rural City of Murray Bridge
- PROXY Member, Rob McKay, Senior Environment Officer, Rural City of Murray Bridge

Coorong Council

- Councillor, Jonathon Pietzch, Coorong District Council
- Councillor, Brenton Qualmann, Coorong District Council
- PROXY Member, Chief Executive Officer, Bridget Mather, Coorong District Council

City of Victor Harbor

- Councillor, Stewart Burns, City of Victor Harbor
- PROXY Member, Kathy Hayter, City of Victor Harbour

Tatiara District Council

- Mayor Liz Goossens, Tatiara District Council
- Chief Executive Officer, Anne Champness, Tatiara District Council

Southern Mallee District Council

- Councillor, Ron Valentine, Southern Mallee District Council
- Chief Executive Officer, Jason Beaton, Southern Mallee District Council

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

3 February 2024 – (Feb 2026 or timing of AGM?)

- Adrian Pederick, MP JP
- Colin Grundy
- Warren Jacobs
- Melissa Rebbeck

LIFE MEMBERS

- Graham Camac
- Phillip Moore
- Barry Featherstone
- Frank Tuckwell

MEETINGS

Date		Location
	14 March 2024 (Executive)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual
	17 May 2024 (OGM)	Coorong District Council / Virtual
	20 September 2024 (OGM)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual
	28 February 2025 (OGM)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual
	28 February 2025 (AGM)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual
	20 June 2025 (OGM)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual
	15 August 2025 (OGM)	Coorong District Council / Virtual
PROPOSED	21 November 2025 (OGM)	Alexandrina Council / Virtual
PROPOSED	20 February 2026 (AGM)	Rural City of Murray Bridge / Virtual

Regional Overview

Region 6 encompasses the Lower Murray, Lakes, and Coorong - a region of vital ecological, cultural, and economic importance. It extends from north of Murray Bridge through the Lower Lakes (Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert), to the Murray Mouth and Coorong National Park. This unique environment, where freshwater meets seawater, plays a crucial role in the health of the broader Murray-Darling Basin.

Year in Review

This past year has been marked by active engagement, regional advocacy, and strengthened collaboration. Region 6 has maintained regular meetings supported by the valuable insights of guest speakers from key agencies, including:

- Kate Bartlett, Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)
- Richard Mintern, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO)
- Greg Burns, Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC)

We sincerely thank them for their continued commitment to informing and supporting our regional efforts.

While Region 6 did not organise the River Reflections Conference, we were proud to see it hosted in Murray Bridge, which highlights the importance of our region in the national context. Such events bring critical focus to the Basin's challenges and successes, and we welcomed the opportunity for local voices and issues to be elevated.

Environmental challenges remain, including harmful algae blooms, which have had significant ecological and socio-economic impacts. Region 6, alongside member councils, the MDA, and state agencies, continues to advocate for improved catchment management and better water quality outcomes to reduce such occurrences.

Acknowledgements

I would like to personally thank the Region 6 Executive and Committee Members for their ongoing dedication:

- Heather Barclay
- Bridget Mather
- Andrew MacDonald
- Liz Goossens
- Airlie Keen
- Michael Scott
- Jonathon Pietzch
- Milli Livingston
- Brenton Qualmann
- Anne Champness
- Ron Valentine
- Jason Beaton

Your collaboration and commitment have contributed to a productive and successful year. To all Region 6 members, thank you for your participation, insight, and shared passion for the sustainability and prosperity of our region and the Murray-Darling Basin as a whole.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor Wayne Thorley
Chair – MDA Region 6
2024/25

MRLGA Sustainability Calendar

Murray-Darling Basin Authority Update Sep 2025

As at 27 August 2025. Whole of Basin Water Storage sits at 63%

Basin Plan Evaluation [2025 Basin Plan Evaluation | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

What has been achieved and lessons learned from 13 years of implementation

Sustainable River Audit [Sustainable Rivers Audit | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

Will provide a baseline for the 2025 Outlook to be released later this year

You can Click on Lower Murray to find out the SA Results quickly

MDBA

- MDBA River Reflections Conference was held in Murray Bridge 29-30 July
 - 23 Community Forum Members attended
 - Sold out with three weeks to go
- Community Forum Group meet in August
 - Basin Plan Review presentation, Voices from the Murray-Darling Basin and discussion around River Reflections
- Basin Community Committee meet on 31 July
 - Presentations on Basin Plan Evaluation and Sustainable River Audit
- Voices from the Murray-Darling Basin , includes Loxton and Murray Bridge
 - [Voices from the Murray-Darling Basin | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)
- New Publications Released [Publications | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)

DCCEEW

- Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program has seen two more purchases
 - [Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program - DCCEEW](#)
 - Applications open for Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies grant
 - DCCEEW are currently visiting in communities engaging on this, including Murray Bridge & the Riverland
- Volumes and prices summary of volumes purchased per catchment as at 25 July through the 2023 & 2024 Strategic Water Purchasing Tenders. Table 1 & 2 show the total volume and average price per catchment
 - [Strategic water purchasing – Bridging the Gap - DCCEEW](#)

As always ring or email if you have any questions



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

Rivers, for generations.

Appendix 6

MRLGA Quarter 1 Financial Statements

Executive Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 September 2025

	JUL-SEPT 2025	APR-JUN 2025	VARIANCE
Cash			
Cash received	25,198.80	131,605.12	-80.85% ↓
Cash spent	104,132.68	131,979.95	-21.10% ↓
Cash surplus (deficit)	(78,933.88)	(374.83)	-20,958.58% ↓
Closing bank balance	98,502.18	177,436.06	-44.49% ↓
Profitability			
Income	10,193.00	153,022.48	-93.34% ↓
Direct costs	-	-	- -
Gross profit (loss)	10,193.00	153,022.48	-93.34% ↓
Other income	-	-	- -
Expenses	110,073.78	130,601.85	-15.72% ↓
Profit (loss)	(99,880.78)	22,420.63	-545.49% ↓
Balance Sheet			
Debtors	11,212.30	25,198.80	-55.50% ↓
Creditors	-	-	- -
Net assets	1,048,669.00	1,148,549.78	-8.70% ↓
Sales			
Number of invoices issued	-	8.00	-100.00% ↓
Average value of invoices	-	12,190.25	-100.00% ↓
Performance			
Gross profit margin (%)	100.00	100.00	- -
Net profit margin (%)	(979.90)	14.65	-6,787.86% ↓
Return on investment (p.a.) (%)	(38.10)	7.81	-587.92% ↓
Position			
Average debtor days	101.20	14.99	575.33% ↑
Average creditor days	-	-	- -
Short term cash forecast	11,212.30	25,198.80	-55.50% ↓
Current assets to liabilities	14.49	17.23	-15.87% ↓
Term assets to liabilities	-	-	- -

Cash Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 September 2025

JUL-SEPT 2025

Income

Berri Barmera Council	12,415.00
Coorong District Council	10,793.00
Sales	(300.00)
Total Income	22,908.00

Less Expenses

Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	450.00
Bank Fees	10.00
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	512.52
Meeting Expenses	1,827.18
Office Expenses	180.85
PAYG Withholdings Payable	(27,540.00)
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	959.50
Sundry Expenses	100.00
Superannuation	11,121.12
Superannuation Payable	(1,039.98)
Wages and Salaries	94,912.61
Total Expenses	81,493.80

Surplus (Deficit)	(58,585.80)
--------------------------	--------------------

Plus Tax Movements

Tax Collected	2,320.80
Tax Paid	(22,668.88)
Net Tax Movements	(20,348.08)

Net Cash Movement	(78,933.88)
--------------------------	--------------------

Summary

Opening Balance	177,436.06
Plus Net Cash Movement	(78,933.88)
Cash Balance	98,502.18

Profit and Loss

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 September 2025

	QUARTER	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	NOTES
Council Subscriptions									
Berri Barmera Council	-	25,302.00	(25,302.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Coorong District Council	10,493.00	21,385.00	(10,892.00)	↓	10,493.00	-	10,493.00	↑	
DC of Karoonda East Murray	-	11,962.00	(11,962.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
DC of Loxton Waikerie	-	28,722.00	(28,722.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Mid Murray Council	-	27,859.00	(27,859.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Renmark Paringa Council	-	23,609.00	(23,609.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Rural City of Murray Bridge	-	45,244.00	(45,244.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Southern Mallee DC	-	13,954.00	(13,954.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Council Subscriptions	10,493.00	198,037.00	(187,544.00)		10,493.00	-	10,493.00		
Other Income									
Regional Capacity Building	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
SLRP Surcharge	-	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Interest Income	-	47,956.00	(47,956.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Sales	(300.00)	-	(300.00)	↓	(300.00)	-	(300.00)	↓	
Waste Education Levy	-	100,000.00	(100,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	

	QUARTER	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	NOTES
Waste Contract Management Levy	-	65,000.00	(65,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Other Income	(300.00)	277,956.00	(278,256.00)		(300.00)	-	(300.00)		
Gross Profit	10,193.00	475,993.00	(465,800.00)		10,193.00	-	10,193.00		
Expenses									
Administration Expenses									
Allowance (President)	-	5,300.00	(5,300.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Audit and Accounting Fees	-	7,500.00	(7,500.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Bank Fees	10.00	120.00	(110.00)	↓	10.00	-	10.00	↑	
Insurance	-	12,000.00	(12,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Legal expenses	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Meeting Expenses	1,827.18	6,000.00	(4,172.82)	↓	1,827.18	-	1,827.18	↑	
Office Expenses	180.85	4,400.00	(4,219.15)	↓	180.85	-	180.85	↑	
M365/SharePoint IT and Support	512.52	2,751.00	(2,238.48)	↓	512.52	-	512.52	↑	
Sundry Expenses	100.00	3,000.00	(2,900.00)	↓	100.00	-	100.00	↑	
Travel & Accommodation	-	6,500.00	(6,500.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Website Maintenance	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Administration Expenses	2,630.55	53,571.00	(50,940.45)		2,630.55	-	2,630.55		
Operational Expenses									
Accounting Services (Payroll, BAS and General Accounting)	450.00	2,500.00	(2,050.00)	↓	450.00	-	450.00	↑	
Superannuation	11,121.12	-	11,121.12	↑	11,121.12	-	11,121.12	↑	

	QUARTER	25/26 ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	YEAR TO DATE	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	-	NOTES
Wages and Salaries	94,912.61	455,834.00	(360,921.39)	↓	94,912.61	-	94,912.61	↑	
Office Equipment	-	5,140.00	(5,140.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Admin Support	-	25,000.00	(25,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Operational Expenses	106,483.73	488,474.00	(381,990.27)		106,483.73	-	106,483.73		
Project Expenses									
Regional Public Health Plan	-	30,000.00	(30,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Regional Road Hierarchy Plan	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Regional Waste Management Initiatives	959.50	10,000.00	(9,040.50)	↓	959.50	-	959.50	↑	
Roads Database	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Project Expenses	959.50	50,000.00	(49,040.50)		959.50	-	959.50		
New Initiative for Sustainability	-	10,000.00	(10,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
MRLGA Strategic Planning	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Regional Road Action Plans	-	500.00	(500.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Vice President (Allowance)	-	1,280.00	(1,280.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Regional Capacity Building Construction Roads Training	-	8,000.00	(8,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Regional Transport Plan	-	40,000.00	(40,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
New Initiative for Shared Services	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	↓	-	-	-	—	
Total Expenses	110,073.78	661,825.00	(551,751.22)		110,073.78	-	110,073.78		
Net Profit	(99,880.78)	(185,832.00)	85,951.22		(99,880.78)	-	(99,880.78)		

Balance Sheet

Murray and Mallee LGA As at 30 September 2025

	30 SEPT 2025	30 JUNE 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Murray and Mallee LGA	98,502.18	177,436.06
Total Bank	98,502.18	177,436.06
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	11,212.30	25,198.80
Accrued Interest Revenue	1,389.46	1,389.46
LGFA Investment Deposits	1,017,038.15	1,017,038.15
Petty Cash	100.00	100.00
Total Current Assets	1,029,739.91	1,043,726.41
Total Assets	1,128,242.09	1,221,162.47
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	(9,877.03)	11,742.55
PAYG Withholdings Payable	38,852.00	11,312.00
Provision for Employee Leave	37,753.00	37,753.00
Superannuation Payable	11,121.12	10,081.14
Total Current Liabilities	77,849.09	70,888.69
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	79,573.09	72,612.69
Net Assets	1,048,669.00	1,148,549.78
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(99,880.78)	129,421.92
Retained Earnings	1,148,549.78	1,019,127.86
Total Equity	1,048,669.00	1,148,549.78

Aged Receivables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 30 September 2025

Ageing by due date

CONTACT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
	-	-	-	-		
Total	-	-	-	-		
Percentage of total	-	-	-	-	100.00%	100.00%

Aged Payables Summary

Murray and Mallee LGA

As at 30 September 2025

Ageing by due date

Statement of Cash Flows

Murray and Mallee LGA

For the 3 months ended 30 September 2025

JUL-SEPT 2025

Operating Activities

Receipts from customers	25,198.80
Payments to suppliers and employees	(110,476.79)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	(22,235.87)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(107,513.86)

Financing Activities

Other cash items from financing activities	28,579.98
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	28,579.98

Net Cash Flows	(78,933.88)
-----------------------	--------------------

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	177,436.06
Net change in cash for period	(78,933.88)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	98,502.18

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MURRAYLAND AND RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Opinion

We have audited the general purpose financial report of Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association (the "Association"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and Director's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2025 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

Other Matter

The financial report of the Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association, for the year ended 30 June 2024, was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on that report on 23 September 2024.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards, *the Local Government Act 1999* and *the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- + Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- + Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- + Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- + Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- + Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



AHO AUDIT PTY LTD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 20 October 2025

MURRAYLAND AND RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT

Opinion

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and the operating effectiveness of controls established by Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association ('Association') in relation to financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, throughout the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 relevant to ensuring such transactions have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

In our opinion, except for the matter described in the Basis for Opinion paragraph, in all material respects:

- (a) The controls established by the Association in relation to financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities were suitably designed to ensure such transactions have been conducted properly and in accordance with law; and
- (b) The controls operated effectively as designed throughout the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Basis for Opinion

The Association sought exemption from the requirement in clause 30 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999. The Minister granted the exemption on the basis that the Association would periodically review and update its internal controls and encouraged the use of the practical and contemporary guidance material on internal controls issued by the Local Government Association's 'Better Practice Model – Internal Financial Controls'.

The Association's 'Operations Manual – Finance Policy' is available on the Association's website and was last updated in October 2014.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagement ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagement on Controls, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The Associations Responsibility for Internal Control

The Association is responsible for:

- a) The receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities;
- b) Identifying the control objectives
- c) Identifying the risks that threaten achievement of the control objectives
- d) Designing controls to mitigate those risks, so that those risks will not prevent achievement of the identified control objectives; and
- e) Operating effectively the controls as designed throughout the period.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and applied Auditing Standard ASQC 1 Quality Control for Firms that Performs Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements in undertaking this assurance engagement.

Auditor's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Authority's compliance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the internal controls established by the Authority to ensure that financial transactions relating to receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Information and ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Authority has complied with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the internal controls specified above for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements for the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. An assurance engagement on controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

Limitations of Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Authority in Accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to the Internal Controls Specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Authority, or for any purpose other than which it was prepared.



AHO AUDIT PTY LTD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 20 October 2025

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

To the Board Members of Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association

As lead auditor for the audit of Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2025:

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of Murrayland and Riverland Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(5) Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.



AHO AUDIT PTY LTD



**LUKE BOLLMEYER
DIRECTOR**

Dulwich, 7 October 2025

Letter from Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray



25MIT17740

Ms Ella Winnall
Mayor
Berri Barmera Council
mayorwinall@bbc.sa.gov.au

Mr Peter Hunter
Mayor
Renmark Paringa Council
mayorhunter@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au

Mr Trevor Norton
Mayor
District Council of Loxton Waikerie
mayornorton@lwdc.sa.gov.au

Dear Mayors

Thank you for your letter dated 17 January 2025, on behalf of the Riverland Local Government Forum, to the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier, about the maintenance of a navigable channel on the River Murray. As the matter you have raised falls within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Premier has asked that I respond on his behalf.

As the River Murray is no longer defined as a Harbor under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* (the Act), there is no requirement for a navigable channel to be maintained by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department).

Where risk to public safety is identified, the Department will make an assessment and install temporary or permanent channel markers outlining the danger, with this being sufficient to ensure navigation to that point would be safe. An example of this is the lateral markers at Overland Corner and Settlers Bend.

Due to the wide variability of watercraft, the onus is on the operator or master of a vessel to ensure the waters they are traversing are at a level sufficient to ensure safe navigation. As such, there are no specifications regarding width and depth when determining a waterway to be navigable – what is navigable differs from vessel to vessel.

I am pleased to report that in November 2024, the Department commenced an on-water safety assessment of the South Australian portion of the River Murray, between the New South Wales border and Wellington. The assessment has been completed, and a final report will be distributed to you.

No significant changes to the preferred route marked in the 'South Australian Waters: An Atlas and Guide' were identified as a result of the assessment. The Department has erected signs at vessel launching locations in Berri and Renmark to advise mariners of the shallow water at Settlers Bend and deployed additional buoyage to assist with navigation.

Yours sincerely



Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

12 / 8 / 2025