



MDA Delegates Report 2022 National Conference and AGM

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray-Darling Basin.

The following report should be tabled at council and provides delegates and their councils with an overview of the MDA's 2022 National Conference and AGM.



A note from the Murray Darling Association CEO:

A resilient economy, and infrastructure to support it, is essential to the people of the Basin Communities. In the same way, a healthy river system must have a balance of flow and harvest. There is no future on a dry system.

The MDA's 78th National Conference & AGM brought together both MDA member and non-member councils to engage in conversation, network with innovators, scientists, educators, and technical and political leaders of our time.

Civic Reception

18/09/22

Albury Club



Kicking off the National Conference, the Murray Darling Association welcomed Conference delegates and key local leaders, engaging in conversation and networking in the Albury Club, steeped in over 140 years of history.

Delegates were welcomed by the AlburyCity Mayor, Kylie King, and engaged in networking and discussion with Councillors from across the Basin, as well as the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Hon Sussan Ley MP.



Study Tour

19/09/22

Dartmouth Dam,
Hume Dam, Mitta Pub

The Study Tour saw delegates travel to explore and learn of two of Albury Wodonga's incredible infrastructure marvels, the Dartmouth and Hume dams, with incredible insight shared by Goulburn-Murray Water's Peter Liepkalns, and Water NSW's Simon Nolan respectively. Stopping over at the Mitta Pub, Delegates were treated a variety of meals and produce from a local brewery.

Gala Dinner

20/09/22

SS&A Club



Bringing together delegates, Guest speakers, Sponsors, and Exhibitors, the Gala Dinner offered a relaxed atmosphere at the magnificent SS&A Club, with Mr Greg Ryan of the Albury & District Historical Society engaging the audience with an informative presentation on the Murray River, and its impact on Albury History.



Conference

20/09/22 - 21/09/22
Albury Entertainment
Centre

Bringing together delegates from across the corners of the Murray-Darling Basin, the MDA's National Conference featured an overarching theme of Economics, Dams, and Infrastructure.

The MDA's 78th National Conference explored many themes including Water Use, Water Security, Tourism, Algae/Bushfires and their effect on the Murray-Darling Basin, and Climate Change.

This year's conference featured an incredible line-up of Guest Speakers, INCLUDING the Minister for the Environment and Water, Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, and Shadow Water Minister, Senator Perin Davey!

Please see the following page for a full list of Guest Speakers and the various perspectives they offered over the two days of the Conference.

2023 National Conference



The Murray Darling Association is excited to announce that the 2023 National Conference will be held in Region 6, hosted by the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Murray Bridge is a thriving regional centre on the banks of the Murray River and an attractive destination in the Murraylands of South Australia.

Region 6 is filled with natural beauty and unique experiences that makes us a destination of choice for travelers, adventurers, and those who just want to spend lazy days by the river.

Guest Speaker	Affiliation	Perspective
Dr Claire Naughtin	Data61, CSIRO	<i>Megatrends, Missions, and Regional Circularity</i>
Alex Cooke	Mission Lead, CSIRO	
Dr Naomi Boxall	Circular Economy Proto Mission Co Lead, CSIRO	
Murray Jones	GM, Earth Science Labs Global	<i>Impact of Algal Blooms on Regional Communities</i>
Dr Fred Singleton	Earth Science Labs	
Dr David Hammond	Earth Science Labs	
Hilary Johnson	Interim Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, CEWO	<i>Managing Water for the Environment in the Murray-Darling Basin</i>
Andrew Reynolds	Exec. Director River Management, MDBA	<i>Seasonal Conditions and System operations</i>
Senator Perin Davey	Shadow Water Minister,	<i>Murray-Darling Basin Plan, Water Management, Panel Session</i>
Sam Birrell MP	Member for Nicholls	<i>Irrigation, Murray-Darling Basin Plan advocacy/community engagement, Panel Session</i>
Cr Melissa Rebbeck	Alexandrina Council, MDA Region 6 Chair	<i>Circular economic opportunities for the Murray-Darling Basin</i>
Professor Max Finlayson	Charles Sturt University	<i>External effects on water bodies and resources.</i>
Professor Jamie Pittock	Australian National University, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists	<i>Future of the Basin and Environmental attributes</i>
Mr Greg Ryan	Albury & District Historical Society	<i>The Murray River and its impact on Albury history.</i>
Andrew McConville	CEO, MDBA	<i>The Murray-Darling Basin Plan</i>
Hon Troy Grant	Inspector-General for Water Compliance	<i>Community engagement, providing a balanced voice for communities</i>
Hon Tanya Plibersek MP	Minister for Environment and Water	<i>The Murray-Darling Basin Plan, Community engagement and representation, Water and resources in the Murray-Darling Basin</i>
Rod Knight	CEO, Water Stewardship Asia Pacific	<i>Water Stewardship, local government, and water challenges in the Murray Darling Basin</i>
Yvette Myhill	GM, Destination Riverina Murray	<i>The Basin and the Visitor Economy</i>
Professor Michael Stewardson	CEO, One Basin CRC	<i>Productive, resilient and sustainable irrigation regions</i>
Michael Pisasale	Water Policy and Strategy Manager, Murray Irrigation	<i>Murray Reconnected Floodplains- Environment and Communities Working Together</i>



AGM

21/09/22

Albury Entertainment Centre

The MDA's AGM brought together the association's members and Board Members to discuss the Association's performance, both financial and through resolutions and the Association's direction for the year ahead.

New motions were put forth regarding the following:

- Environmental Water Account
- Moratorium on Agricultural & Horticultural Developments
- Menindee Lakes – RAMSAR Site
- Floodplain Harvesting Volume Cap
- Draft Western Regional Water Strategy Consultation
- Effects of Sea-Level rise
- Greater First Nations Involvement
- Progress Reporting on the 450GL Recovery Program
- NSW Water Resource Plans
- Circular Economic Project Funding
- Clarification of Annual Water Allocation Methodology
- "Benefit Cost Ratio" Requirements
- Ownership and access for cultural and Economic Purposes for the Basin's Indigenous Nations
- Exploring the Potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge
- The John Kell Proposal



FIND OUT MORE!

Contact the Murray Darling Association

For more information, or to find out what membership can do for you!

03 5480 3805
mda.asn.au

The benefits of being a MDA member

Becoming a MDA member can take your voice, your representation within the Murray-Darling Basin to the next level.



The benefits of Membership are flowing freely to all our regions!

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is your peak body for local government in the management of Basin water resources, working together to inform and influence both State, and Federal Government. The MDA strives to provide effective representation of Local Government and communities at State, and Federal, level in the development of policy and the management of Murray-Darling Basin resources.

With ongoing projects, influence, representation, and partnerships with the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the MDBA, the National Carp Control Plan, University of Southern Queensland, the One Basin CRC, and Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, the MDA has much to offer to its members!



FIND OUT MORE!



Programs and Projects

The MDA continues to develop its partnerships with peak bodies and agencies across the Basin.

Find out more about what the MDA is doing to support Basin communities.

Engage with Councils across the Basin!

The MDA has strong partnerships with peak bodies and agencies across the Murray-Darling Basin, ensuring continued engagement with, and on behalf of councils and communities through ongoing projects, programs, and committees. Involvement in the [Sustainable Recreation Steering Committee](#), and the [Murraylands Riverland LGA Water Position Paper](#), submissions of numerous reports ranging from the [Productivity Commission to the NSW Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting](#), as well as partnerships with Australia's national science agency, the [CSIRO](#) have sought to address ongoing concerns and interests of its members, ensuring continued representation on a national stage.

Programs such as the [Save the Murray initiative](#), [Waterwise](#), and the recently concluded [Basin Communities Leadership Program](#) have brought water leaders across the Murray-Darling Basin together, to discuss and influence water, and Basin resource policy across SA, VIC, NSW, the ACT, and QLD.

Following the successful conclusion of the Basin Communities Leadership Program, the MDA will continue to develop industry leaders across the Basin through tailored programs and events.



FIND OUT MORE!

Events and Conferences

The MDA holds numerous events, meetings and conferences across each year.

Find out more about what you can do with your MDA membership.



The MDA is your opportunity to be a part of the solution, to inform future policy!

The MDA hosts numerous events each year, such as the MDA Region 6 [Annual Stakeholder Symposium](#), the Inter-regional Meeting, and culminating in the MDA's [annual National Conference](#).

Membership, and involvement with the MDA is your opportunity to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and to engage with the innovators, scientists, educators, and leaders of our time!



FIND OUT MORE!



MDA Membership

Organised into 12 Local Government areas, MDA members represent communities across NSW, VIC, QLD, and SA!

Find out more about MDA membership!

Our Purpose: Providing effective representation of Local Government and communities.

The Murray Darling Association is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and the communities we serve across the Murray-Darling Basin since 1944.

As the third level of government in Australia, and the one most directly connected to community, local government has a valuable contribution to make in the processes, community consultation, and the formulation of decisions made and taken in the continuing implementation of the Basin Plan. This is enhanced beyond measure when local government is working together Basin wide.

Built on a strong foundation of good governance, we work with and for member councils, in collaboration with state based local government associations (LGASA, MAV, LGNSW and LGAQ), Regional Organisations of Councils, Joint Organisations and other local government affiliations.

The MDA provides its members with the means and opportunity to actively participate in informing water policy, and provides state and Federal governments, the MDBA, CSIRO, and other agencies with an opportunity to access community consultation and perspectives via a comprehensive community network coverage.



FIND OUT MORE!

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