



MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

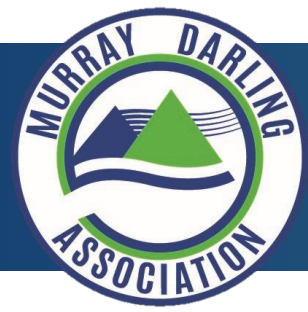
Collaboration: Connecting Catchments and Communities

Mitcham Council, SA

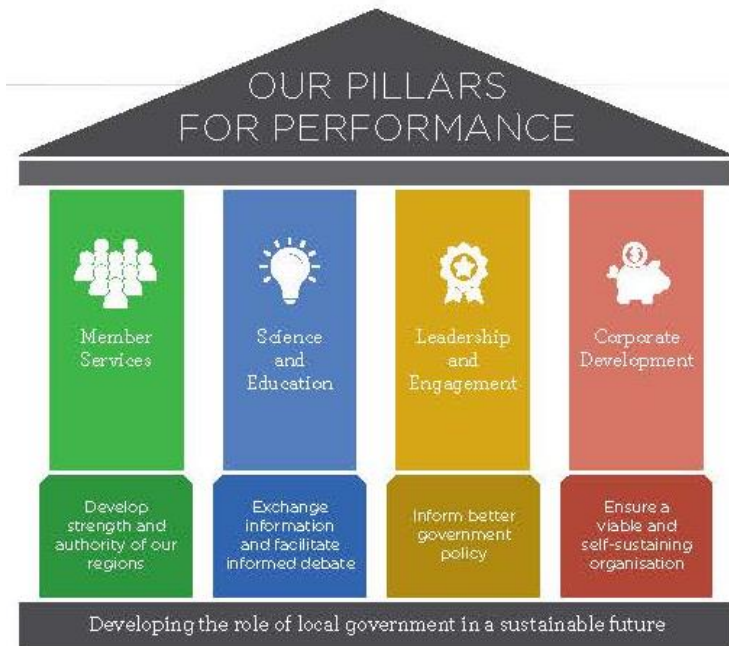
Mark D. Lamb
CEO, MDA

17th May 2022

MDA Purpose



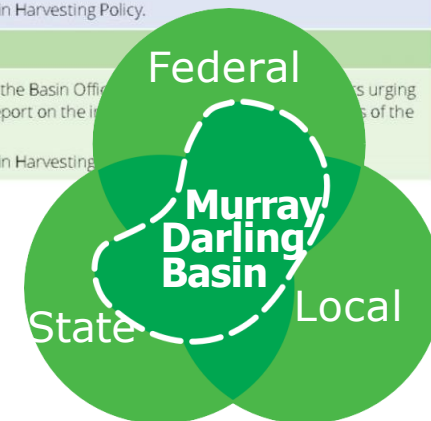
Effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by providing information, facilitating discussion and seeking to inform government policy



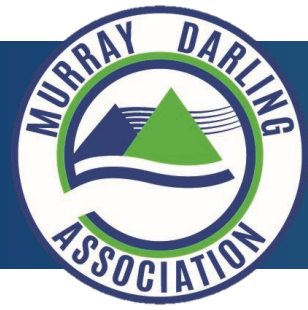
INFLUENCE	GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE DECISIONS
<p>2019 Motion 5.4</p> <p>That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal Government to provide ongoing assistance for drought preparedness in the form of low interest innovation, water infrastructure and drought assistance loans, training and professional development in business management for farmers and continued support for Rural Financial counsellors to work with farmers long term, with the understanding that drought is part of the normal cycle of farming and needs to be planned for.</p>	<p>The recent drought has taken a toll on communities across the entire Basin. The MDA has conducted meetings the Department of Infrastructure and the National Water Grid Authority in Canberra. The MDA advocated at those meetings the need for greater communication regarding how those two organisations plan for current and future drought cycles.</p> <p>The MDA has written to and met with the National Water Infrastructure Authority, and with the National Farmers Federation to explore strategies for local government to assist in drought preparedness.</p>
<p>2019 Motion 5.5</p> <p>That the Murray Darling Association call on the Federal and State Government to address the urgent need for action on the Darling Barwon river system to ensure that the supply of safe drinking water and flows for stock and domestic use is the priority at all times, including priority over and above the release of water from dams for large scale irrigation, irrespective of the circumstances in which allocations have been pre-purchased or pre-allocated for large scale irrigation.</p>	<p>Critical human water needs are the top priority under the Water Act 2007 followed closely followed by stock and domestic supply.</p> <p>The MDA also participated in stakeholder consultation with the NSW Government in the development of its Flood Plain Harvesting and Regulation.</p> <p>The MDA had written to and met with the NSW government, Basin Officials, the MDBA and Basin Ministers urging all support and encouragement required for NSW to meet this obligation.</p> <p>NSW has yet to complete its Flood Plain Harvesting Policy.</p>
<p>2019 Motion 5.6</p> <p>That the Murray Darling Association calls on the Federal and State Governments to immediately and proactively heed the Productivity Commission's recommendation for better governance and integrated delivery of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Projects as well as more realistic timeframes for delivery of those Projects.</p>	<p>The MDA had written to and met with the Basin Officials and NSW Government urging all Basin governments to adopt and report on the recommendations of the Productivity Commission.</p> <p>NSW has yet to complete its Flood Plain Harvesting Policy.</p>

“If the MDA didn’t exist, we’d have to invent it.”

Hon Craig Knowles Chairman Murray Darling Basin Authority 2011-15, Forbes 2014.



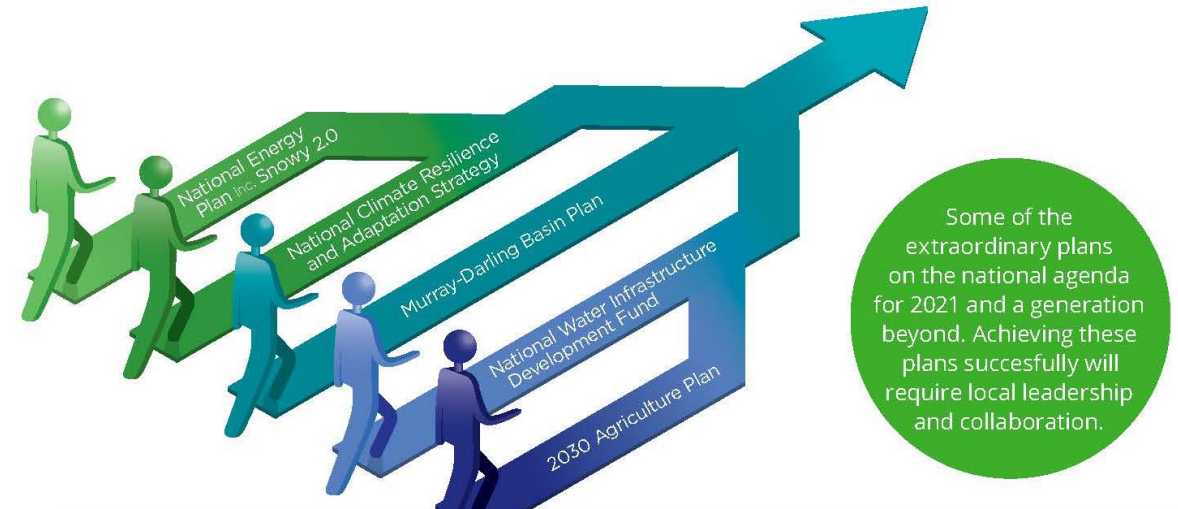
Partnerships



Partnerships are key for the responsible management of Basin resources

- **CSIRO**
 - First of its kind in Australia, collaborative relationship agreement with Local Government
 - MDA Local Government Science and Advisory Sub Committee
- **Murray Darling Basin Authority**
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - Events
 - Climate Change Resilience Summit
- **Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment**
 - Step change in way they undertake consultation
 - Putting communities at the heart of the Basin Plan

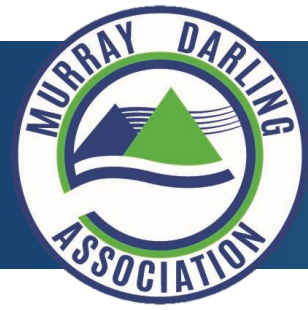
TRANSFORMING THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME!



Some of the extraordinary plans on the national agenda for 2021 and a generation beyond. Achieving these plans successfully will require local leadership and collaboration.



Region Meetings



Region meetings have a direct influence on policy reform

Regions provide an essential platform for Basin community collaboration, information sharing and work across regions

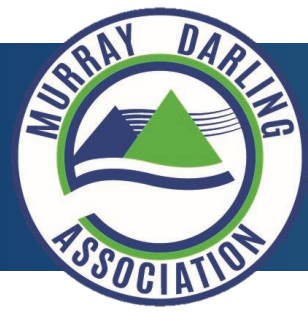
Key issues include:

- **Regional Economic Drivers**
- **End of System and Valley Specific Flow Targets**
- **Inter regional collaboration and knowledge sharing**

Leadership Opportunity



2022 National Conference



Collaboration: Connecting Catchments and Communities

Join us in Wentworth for the **Murray Darling Association's 78th National Conference and AGM** from **19~21 September 2022**.

This exciting event will bring together leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin.

This hybrid event will provide a range of attendance options. Meeting in Albury will provide those rich opportunities to reconnect with each other.

REGISTER TODAY: www.mda.asn.au

A promotional poster for the 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting. It features a large aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush green landscape. The text is arranged as follows:

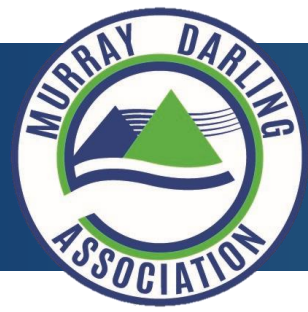
MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION logo (top left)

77th National Conference
and Annual General Meeting
16-19 May 2021

COLLABORATION:
CONNECTING CATCHMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

A hybrid event proudly presented in partnership with
WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL
WORTH THE DRIVE

Basin Communities Leadership Program



New initiative focused on building leadership capacity throughout the Basin

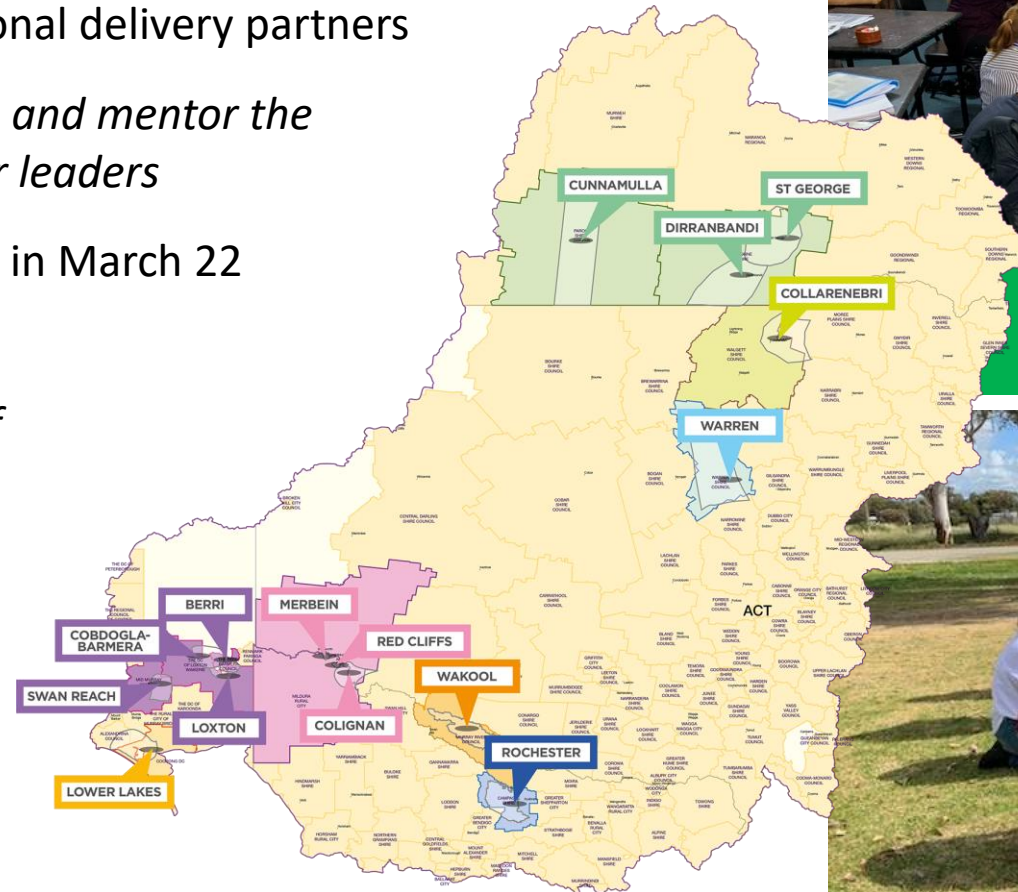
- Developed by the MDA
- Funded under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program
- Delivered in collaboration with regional delivery partners

The program will identify, educate and mentor the next generation of water leaders

South Australian workshops conducted in March 22

Opportunity for Councillors and staff to participate

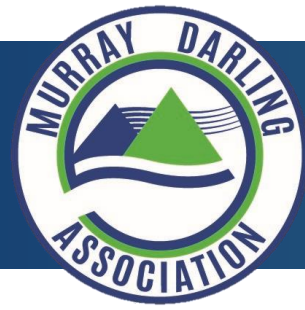
APPLY NOW: www.mda.asn.au



Valued at over \$4,500 per participant



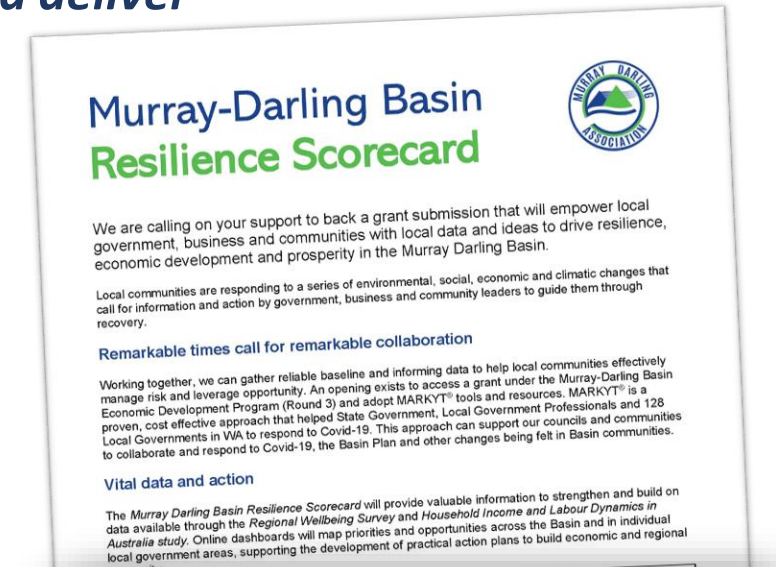
Upcoming Projects



The MDA is driving and collaborating with key industry bodies to design and deliver community projects in the Murray Darling Basin

Funding is being sought for 38 impacted communities, however benefits will extend to *all* communities

- **Science Education and Regional Futures (Centre for Excellence)**
 - Key partners - CSIRO
- **Climate ready and Water Secure Communities**
 - Town and regional water relationships
- **Basin Communities Leadership Program**
- **Regional Economic Diversification Program**
- **Coalition of Peaks**





Questions



Thank you