

9 February 2018





# INTRODUCTION

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) is a membership based body representing local government and communities across the Murray Darling Basin.

The Basin covers 14 percent of the land mass of Australia, and there are 167 local government organisations across the Basin whose communities derive their wellbeing from the resources of the Basin.

Around 100 of these organisations are now members of the MDA.



*"If the MDA didn't exist, we'd have to invent it,"*  
Hon Craig Knowles, Chairman  
Murray Darling Basin Authority (2011-2015),  
Forbes 2014

Local government must have the means and opportunity to actively participate in informing water policy



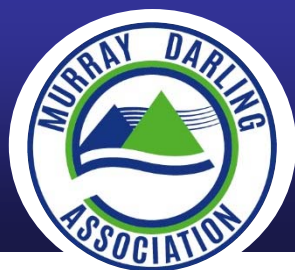


# OUR PURPOSE

To provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin water resources by

- Sharing information
- Facilitating constructive debate
- Using regional knowledge to influence government policy





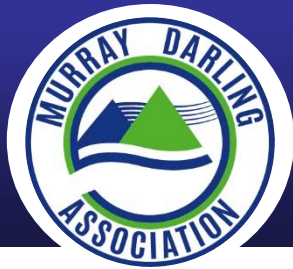
# OUR HISTORY

The Murray Darling Association initially formed in 1944 with the objective of providing sufficient water supplies and hydro-electricity to support sustainable production in agriculture, business and industry across the basin.

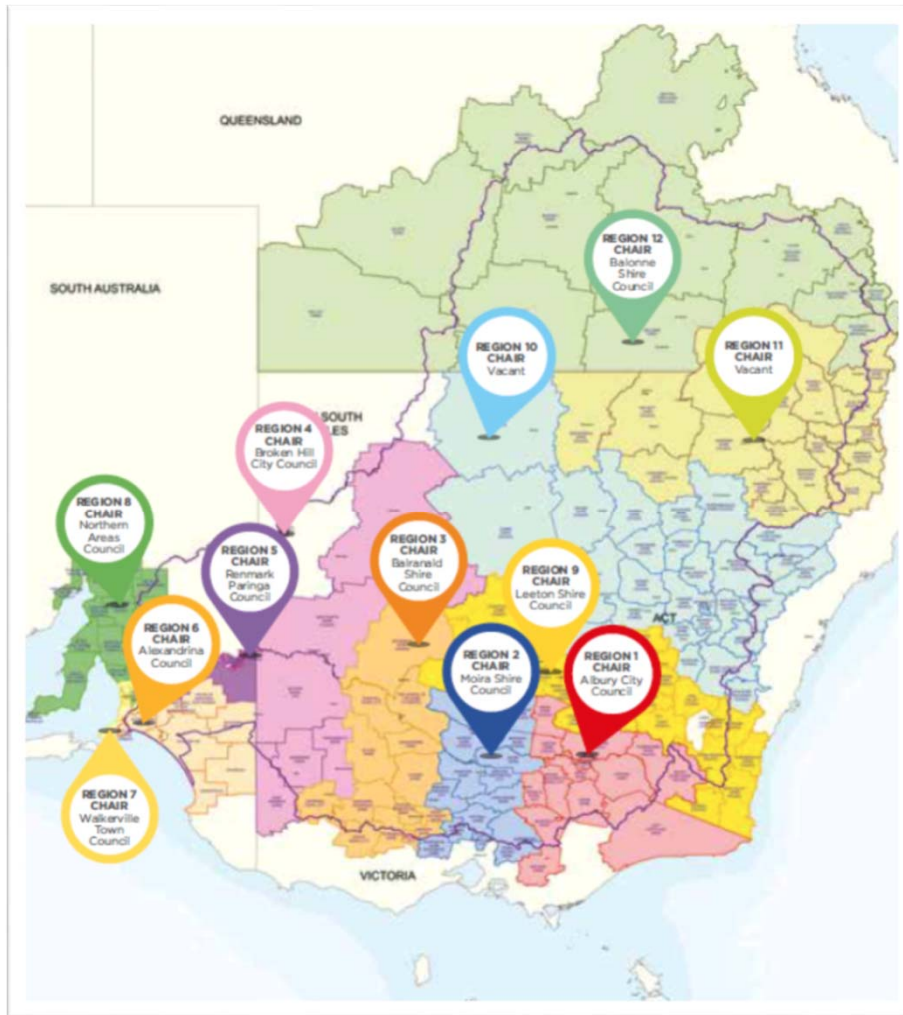
This organisation was instrumental in securing support for the Snowy River Diversion and its associated hydro electricity scheme.

Today, with the implementation of the Basin Plan impacting every community across the basin, the purpose of the MDA has never had greater relevance.





# OUR REGIONS



- The MDA has 12 Regions across the basin
- Covering 4 states & ACT
- Regions associated by councils in communities of interest.
- State borders are not defining boundaries





# OUR STRENGTH

The MDA's strength and success in providing clear direction, local solutions; and strong, credible advocacy relies upon

- Strong regional leadership
- good governance – at national and regional level
- active participation by member councils
- the technical and professional expertise that is uniquely invested in local government, and
- a model and experience that supports cross-border collaboration





# THE STRENGTH

Let's recap...

167 municipalities across 14% of the  
Australian continent.

**UNITED, that is a powerful  
voice!**









# Achievements – we inform and influence

- Engagement
  - Ministerial Council – peak engagement event
  - MDBA – compliance review/BCC/others
  - NCCP stakeholder engagement committee
- Economic
  - Murray River heights at Easter 2017
  - 2014 Review of the Water Act – changes to s106 (3)-(6) increased flexibility for the CEWH
- Projects & Partnerships
  - CSIRO Basin plan evaluation framework
  - AICD Governance for cross-border models
  - MDBA MOU
- Inform and influence legislation
  - Northern Basin review - Border Rivers Basin Plan Amendment Submission
  - Victorian Enquiry in Environmental Watering
  - Senate Select Committee Enquiry into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
  - Local govt support at Basin scale
- Many more...



# CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- ***UNITY***
- Leveraging the investment in the package of supply, constraints and efficiency measures.
- Planning for the changes that new and emerging industries and technologies will bring to our regional towns and cities.
- Informing the content and structure of our water resource plans.
- Maximising the value of the \$1.3bn available under the NSW 'Growing local economies' Regional Growth Fund
- Harnessing our collective voice.



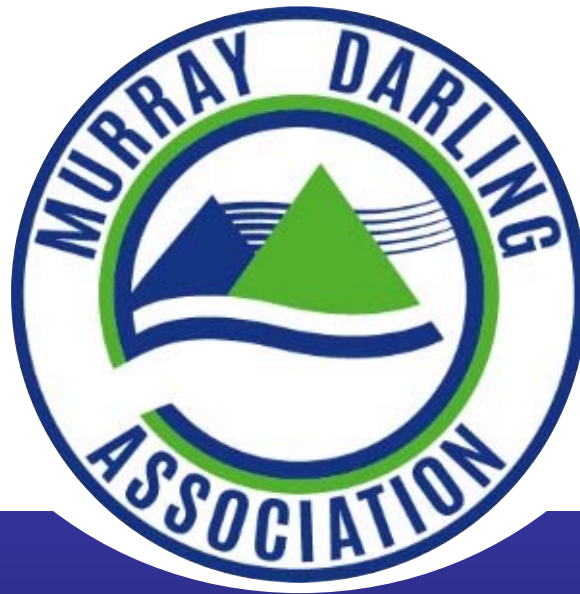


# CALL TO ACTION



- Active and current membership of all Basin councils.
- Whole of council engagement – councilors and officers.
- Active participation in regional and national dialogue through the MDA region meetings.
- Collaboration across existing networks.





**BROC**

Border Regional Organisation of Councils



*Thank you*