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**NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 12 MARCH 2025  
MAYORAL MINUTE**

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**1. MAYORAL DIARY**

February 2025

12 February	Strategic Water Training for Councillors Meeting with NSW ICAC Chief Commissioner
19 February	Community Strategic Plan Workshop Ordinary Council Meeting
20 February	Radio Interview with 2DU
25 February	Narromine Aerodrome Committee Meeting
27 February	New Residents Evening
28 February	Meeting with Local Land Services Meeting with Deputy Mayor

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

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**2. DEPUTY MAYORAL DIARY**

February 2025

12 February	Strategic Water Training for Councillors Meeting with NSW ICAC Chief Commissioner
13 February	Meeting with ICAC and Executive Leadership Team
19 February	Community Strategic Plan Workshop Ordinary Council Meeting
27 February	New Residents Evening
28 February	Meeting with Mayor

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

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**3. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – TOMINGLEY GOLD OPERATIONS (TGO)  
PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Cr Smith has submitted a report for the Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Project Community Consultative Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2025 **(See Attachment No. 1)**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

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**4. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cr Leak has submitted a report for the Bushfire Management Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2025 **(See Attachment No. 2)**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

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**5. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION, REGION 10**

Cr Howe has submitted a report for the Murray Darling Association Region 10 Meeting held on 18 February 2025 **(See Attachment No. 3)**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the information be noted.

Cr Ewen Jones  
**Mayor**

# COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

COUNCILLOR REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT:

## **Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO) Project Community Consultative Committee**

COUNCILLOR: **Cr Judy Smith**

DATE ATTENDED: **27 February 2025**

### **1. Main Purpose of Conference/Visit/Meeting**

To inform the community about the works being undertaken by the TGO and consult with the community

### **2. Key Messages/Highlights of Relevance to Council**

- Underground mining is continuing at the Roswell, Coloma and Wyoming deposits.
- Development of new areas is progressing
- New paste plant is up and running. It is operating on an 'as needs' basis and hours of operation will increase as more areas are mined.
- The Department have reviewed the reports and have advised that the Audit satisfied their audit standards. The Audit report and RAR (Response to Audit Recommendations) can be found on the Alkane website.
- TGO Community Newsletter #36 will be distributed to residents in late March.
- Applications were received for the first round of the TGO Community Fund for 2025.
- Tomingley Races are on 5th April 2025 and TGO will be sponsoring the event.
- All site environmental plans are being updated. Copies of the approved plans are on the Alkane website.
- Work on the Newell Highway and Kyalite Rd realignments has not yet commenced.
- Local residents will be notified before any works take place.
- RC drilling has been recently completed.
- Air core drilling and rehabilitation are currently underway.

### **3. Benefits to Narromine Shire Council**

Keeps Council informed on the future directions of TGO. Allows Council to work collaboratively with TGO to create sound outcomes for the Shire's residents.

### **4. Suggestions for Future Action (if appropriate)**

Maintain a Councillor representative on this committee.

**Cr Judy Smith**

**Date:** 2 March 2025

# COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

COUNCILLOR REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT: **Bushfire Management Committee Meeting**

COUNCILLOR: **Cr Brian Leak**

DATE ATTENDED: **19 February 2025**

**1. Main Purpose of Conference/Visit/Meeting**

Various relevant agencies attend to provide brief summaries of their roles in management and prevention of fires in our local area.

**2. Key Messages/Highlights of Relevance to Council**

Local Land Services advised of the opportunity to offer free stock agistment on small areas to reduce fuel load if any sites are available.

Forestry Corporation are providing maintenance of fire trails with the use of drone technology and heat source imaging.

Councils continue to slash along roadsides. In relation to the applications for funding through the NSW Rural Fire Service, it was recommended that Councils apply for two separate grants to cover multiple slashings each year.

Bushfire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Support Program - Local Councils, State Government Agencies and Forestry Corporation of NSW are all eligible to apply for grants under this program.

Increasing frequency of lithium battery ignited fires during transportation was discussed. With higher volumes of waste being transported by road due to population growth and closure of smaller waste receival depots, there appears to be a trend of dumping ignited loads at any location to protect the transport vehicle. If this happens in rural areas during a high to extreme fire period, the resulting fire damage may be extensive to property, human safety/health.

**3. Benefits to Narromine Shire Council**

Keeps Council informed on management and prevention strategies for the Shire's residents.

**4. Suggestions for Future Action (if appropriate)**

Maintain a Councillor representative on this Committee.

**Cr Brian Leak**

**Date:** 27 February 2025

# COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

COUNCILLOR REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT:

## **Murray Darling Association Region 10 Meeting**

COUNCILLOR: **Cr Peter Howe**

DATE ATTENDED: **18 February 2025**

### **1. Main Purpose of Conference/Visit/Meeting**

First meeting of the MDA Region 10 since 21/07/2020

Agenda

- Confirmation of Minutes
- Election of Regional Office Bearers
- Chief Executive Officer's Report
- General Business
- Future Meeting Dates

The current Councils represented in Region 10: -

- Bogan Shire Council
- Bourke Shire Council
- Coonamble Shire Council
- Cowra Shire Council
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Forbes Shire Council
- Lachlan Shire Council
- Narromine Shire Council
- Warren Shire Council
- Mid-Western Region Council

### **2. Key Messages/Highlights of Relevance to Council**

- Cr Chris Roylance was elected Region 10 Chair
- Crs D Brady, G Whiteley and P Wright were elected to the Regional Executive Committee

The MDA noted that they had acted as a third party to facilitate community engagement for APWS with Narromine Shire Council and its community. The MDA had charged APWS a fee of \$60,000 + GST to provide the service. The MDA stated that they did not have a vested interest.

### **3. Benefits to Narromine Shire Council**

Due to above information and that fact that approx. 4.5 years has passed without an official and minuted meeting, I believe there is no benefit to the Narromine Shire Council and the community it represents.

### **4. Suggestions for Future Action (if appropriate)**

At present I do not believe that this association is beneficial to the Narromine Shire Community. I recommend that we terminate our membership effective immediately.

**Cr Peter Howe**

**Date:** 4 March 2025



# Murray Darling Association Inc

## Region 10 Ordinary Meeting

PO Box 1268  
Echuca VIC 3564

### MINUTES

**Location:** Virtual, Forbes Shire Council, 2 Court St, Forbes NSW 2871

**Date:** 18/2/2025

**Meeting Start:** 11:00AM

**Meeting Close:** 12:24PM

### Acknowledgement of Country

Murray Darling Association acknowledges the traditional owners & custodians of country and pay our respects to the people, cultures, and elders past, present, and emerging.

### Attendance

#### Present

Delegate	Council	Region
Director Cathy Black	Bogan Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Pip Goldsmith	Coonamble Shire Council	Region 10
GM Paul Gallagher	Coonamble Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Peter Wright	Cowra Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Paul Smith	Cowra Shire Council	Region 10
GM Paul Devery	Cowra Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Phillip Toynton	Dubbo Regional Council	Region 10
Cr Chris Roylance	Forbes Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Dennis Brady	Lachlan Shire Council	Region 10
Cr Peter Howe	Narromine Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Greg Whiteley	Warren Shire Council	Region 10
Mark Lamb	Murray Darling Association	Chief Executive Officer
Tim Zeller	Murray Darling Association	Staff

#### Apologies

Delegate	Council	Region
Mayor Danny Keady	Coonamble Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Lachlan Ford	Bourke Shire Council	Region 10
GM Leonie Brown	Bourke Shire Council	Region 10
Mayor Des Kennedy	Mid-Western Region Council	Region 10

#### Declarations

Nil.

## Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The CEO, M Lamb, took the Previous Minutes as read, acknowledged that the attached Minutes from the previous Region 10 Ordinary Meeting were dated from almost 5 years ago.

M Lamb noted that the Murray Darling Association (MDA) was in good financial footing since the last Region 10 Ordinary Meeting was held.

M Lamb noted that over the course of years, some regions of the MDA had fallen into a state of Hiatus, with regions meeting informally rather than in the formal quarterly meeting format. M Lamb noted that there was also a move to unite Regions 10 and 10A.

- D Brady noted that there had been a lot of confusion regarding the boundaries of Regions 10 and 10A. D Brady noted that around the time of the Millenium Drought there had been a lot of emphasis on the Murray, Murrumbidgee, with the rest of the country largely forgotten
  - C Roylance queried whether it would be beneficial to Region 10 Members to provide a list of what members were in Region 10 and Region 10A.
    - M Lamb confirmed that this would be sent out.

### **ACTION:**

**That the Murray Darling Association provide members of Region 10 with the list of member Councils in Regions 10 and 10A.**

M Lamb noted that the MDA Board had begun the reviewing process of the Region Boundaries.

C Roylance expressed the importance of getting Region 10 up and running again, to then ensure active Region engagement in the realignment of the Region Boundaries.

M Lamb raised membership, noted that, as a membership-based organisation, growing and engaging with its member base was an ongoing focus of the MDA. Expressed the importance of engaging with both member, and non-member councils.

- P Howe noted the importance of this Region meeting, noted it had taken a long time for the Region to meet. P Howe expressed concern that the last meeting of the Region had taken place in 2020.

P Howe raised the focus of the MDA, queried whether its focus was on water, the Circular Economy, or Renewable energy.

- M Lamb confirmed that the MDA's core focus had always been on water. Noted that there were some Councils that expressed an interest in other resource management opportunities, such as through the Circular Economy and Waste-to-Energy.

P Howe noted the MDA National Executive, queried who the National President was.

- M Lamb indicated that, following the VIC and NSW Local Government elections, the positions of National President, and Vice-President were vacant. Noted that, however, the MDA Board would be convening in coming weeks to elect the National Executive.

P Howe queried whether the MDA could provide financial transactions for past 5 years.

- M Lamb queried whether P Howe meant Council membership fees.
  - P Howe specified that they sought Council membership fees for the past 5 years.
    - M Lamb confirmed that they would be able to provide P Howe with the Council membership fees of Narromine Shire Council for the past 5 years. Noted that due to privacy laws, unlikely that the MDA would be able to provide the membership fees for other councils.

## Election of Regional Office Bearers

The CEO, M Lamb, raised the election of the Regional Office Bearers. Noted that the MDA normally adheres to a formal process for the nomination of the Regional Chair, however was willing to take nominations from the floor.

The CEO, M Lamb, opened nominations from the floor for the position of Region 10 Chair.

M Lamb noted that they had received a nomination from C Roylance for the position of Region 10 Chair.

M Lamb noted that no other nomination had been received from the floor.

G Whiteley moved the nomination of C Roylance as Chair of Region 10.

- P Wright seconded the nomination

Cr Chris Roylance was elected Chair of Region 10.

The CEO, M Lamb, opened nominations from the floor for the position of Regional Executive Committee.

M Lamb noted the nomination of D Brady.

M Lamb noted the nomination of G Whiteley.

M Lamb noted the nomination of P Wright.

Cr Dennis Brady, Mayor Greg Whiteley, and Cr Peter Wright were elected to the Regional Executive Committee.

M Lamb reconfirmed that the MDA Board would be meeting in coming weeks to elect the National Executive.

M Lamb reference current governance of the MDA's Regions. Noted that Regions 1 and 2 would be holding elections for the Regional Office Bearers shortly. Noted the currently elected Region chairs of:

- Region 4: Cr Jim Hickey
- Region 5: Cr Margaret Howie
- Region 6: Mayor Wayne Thorley
- Region 7: Cr Andrew Tilley
- Region 9: Cr Shari Blumer
- Region 10: Cr Chris Roylance
- Region 11: Mayor Russell Webb
- Region 12: Cr Robyn Fuhrmeister



## Chief Executive Officer's Report

The CEO, M Lamb, provided their Report to the Region 10 Ordinary Meeting, took the report as read.

M Lamb noted that they had already touched on Membership during the Region Meeting.

M Lamb raised MDA Advocacy. Noted that the Region 10 Members had touched on really important areas for Region 10, expressed that this was why Region 10 was so important. Noted that the MDA was constantly advocating on behalf of its members. Indicated that Regions would often prepare motions for advocacy to be raised at the MDA's Annual General Meeting, that however, if issues were urgent, a motion could be raised from the Region and passed during a Region Meeting to be then raised to the MDA Board for immediate advocacy and engagement. M Lamb noted that this was where the MDA played a really important role.

M Lamb raised the 2025 National Conference. Noted that the Conference would be held in Griffith, NSW from 29/9/25 – 2/10/25.

- M Lamb noted that the MDA had not raised its Membership fees during his tenure, nor the cost of conference tickets and registrations. Indicated that the MDA had instead proactively sought to engage with third parties, government departments, such as the CSIRO in a consultancy format.

P Howe queried whether the MDA had received sponsorships from Asia Pacific Waste Solutions (APWS).

- M Lamb acknowledged the reference to APWS, noted that the MDA had acted as a third party to facilitate community engagement for APWS with the Narromine Shire Council and its community.
- M Lamb noted that the MDA had charged a fee of \$60,000.00 +GST to provide the service.
- M Lamb noted the APWS project, stressed that the MDA did not have an invested interest.

G Whiteley queried what timeframe was planned for the Region 10 Meetings.

- C Roylance noted that they aimed for quarterly meetings. Noted that with all the issues raised by member Councils earlier showed that it was important to keep the meetings going.

## General Business

The CEO, M Lamb, queried whether members would like to raise any general business.

G Whiteley expressed that, prior to the next meeting, Councils should reach out to the Region 10 Chair to confirm what would be discussed.

- The Chair, C Roylance, noted that they would reach out to Region 10 members prior to the next Region 10 Ordinary Meeting.

P Wright noted the issue along the Lachlan river raised during the Region meeting. Referenced The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP's comments on the Darling River, that it should always be running.

- M Lamb noted that there appeared to be a shift in South Australia, that there appeared to be a slow shift against Buy Backs.
- M Lamb noted that, since commencing their role as CEO of the MDA, there was less of a divide between the Northern and Southern Basins, even within South Australia. Noted that there was now a shift in attitudes, more farmer, irrigator, and grower representations were being heard. M Lamb expressed that it was worth keeping an open mind as the next phase develops. Noted that there was a lot of support for the opposition of Buy Backs.

## Current Issues from Region 10 Councils

The CEO, M Lamb, raised current issues from the Region. Asked that Region 10 Members to provide an update on current issues within their Local Government Areas.

### **Forbes Shire Council: C Roylance**

C Roylance noted that the region was only now getting over the flooding in the region. Anticipated that some smaller flooding would take place in the next 12 – 18 months.

C Roylance referenced a proposed wetlands situation along the Lachlan river. Indicated that they planned to provide additional information at the next Region 10 meeting.

### **Bogan Shire Council: C Black**

C Black noted that the council region had received some funding for flood recovery.

C Black referenced the community's water situation. Noted that the channel providing water to the community, noted that it was an open channel which, due to its nature, lost water to evaporation in transit. C Black referenced the drought, noted that it had severely impacted the community. Noted the importance, and long-term objective, of drought-proofing Nyngan.

### **Coonamble Shire Council: P Gallagher, P Goldsmith**

P Gallagher noted that council was coming in on the back end of a lot of flood damage. Indicated that Council was working with Warren, and Bogan Shire Councils on a Drought Management Plan.

P Goldsmith noted that while the great artisan Basin provided security, there was a lot of risk to the source. Indicated that it was very much on the community's radar.

### **Cowra Shire Council: P Smith, P Wright**

P Smith noted that Cowra was the first town under Wyangala Dam. Expressed that the biggest problem that the charges for water extracting were planned to be increased, increasing costs for water users.

P Smith noted the raising of the Dam Wall, expressed that they would like to see this occur, however acknowledge that this was unlikely, even should there be a change in government, as the Coalition had been the ones to pull the pin the last time.

P Wright noted that there was an opportunity to control a lot of the flooding on the Lachlan River, if the water on Wyangala could be controlled. Noted that higher than usual water levels had caused bank erosion and issues for pump stations.

### **Dubbo Regional Council: P Toynton**

P Toynton noted the biggest issues in their region were flood damage, and flood resilience.

P Toynton noted that Council was preparing a flood map, and had been engaging with community members on how to improve flood management and resilience. Noted that one of the avenues identified was to install levee banks without impacting communities downstream.

**Lachlan Shire Council: D Brady**

D Brady expressed that the Lachlan should never have been included in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, as the river was disconnected.

D Brady noted that there were erosion issues, particular from fish (Carp). Noted that the attempts to rewild riverbanks had encountered issues with European Carp eating roots and muddying up river banks.

D Brady noted that the 2022 floods had been the worst ever for the region. Noted that water coming down from the east were uncontrolled. Indicated that a lot of flooding in the region didn't come from the dam, rather from all the streams coming into the Lachlan River.

**Narromine Shire Council: P Howe**

P Howe noted that the Council drew water from 9 Bores in the area. Noted that the alluvial aquifers were significantly lower than they had been in years prior.

P Howe note that the Council did not draw from the River currently, but that they were reviewing whether to reinstate this allocation as the Bores were becoming unreliable.

P Howe referenced rumours that Hydro power was being installed into Burrendong Dam. Indicated that this would require a certain level of water in the dam, which could require a decrease in available water.

**Warren Shire Council: G Whiteley**

G Whiteley referenced C Roylance's comments on the wetlands allocation plan. Noted the issue where DPIE and other environmental departments and groups had allocated the areas as wetlands without on the ground inspections.

G Whiteley referred to insurance in towns. Noted concern that, even within the levees, the insurance had increased. Noted that this was a real burden on anybody in the region.

G Whiteley noted that water issues were an ongoing focus in the region.

## Future Meeting Dates

C Roylance noted future Region Meeting dates:

- 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

C Roylance noted that the location was yet to be confirmed.

D Brady queried whether these meetings would be in person, or virtual.

- M Lamb noted that the MDA encouraged Regions to meet in person, however that due to the tyranny of distance, virtual attendance would be offered during Meetings of the MDA Regions.

M Lamb thanked C Roylance and the Executive Committee members, attending member Council delegates, for taking the time to come together in the Region 10 Ordinary Meeting.

C Roylance thanked M Lamb, noted a focus for all Council delegates to fight bureaucracy. Expressed that if the Region and its members worked together, would guarantee success.

## Meeting Close

The chair, C Roylance, declared the meeting closed at 12:24PM.