

Our Ref (A14385)

Memorandum

Date: 30th October 2008

SUMMARY LMD CMA BOARD MEETING 8th OCTOBER 2008

The bi-monthly Board Meeting of the Lower Murray Darling CMA was held at Buronga on 8th October 2008.

Mark King, Chair, welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

Board discussions then followed and included the following items:

Chair's Report – Mark King

Mark King addressed the Board, reporting on his activities since the 11th August Board meeting.

Heads of Water Agencies Conference Echuca – Mark advised that he and the General Manager, Paul Dixon, had attended the Heads of Water Agencies Meeting in Echuca. The Chair commented on the issues addressed during the Conference was worsening due to water shortage as discussed at last year's meeting. Mark also advised that this was to be the last conference organised by the MDBC.

Board Appointments – Mark advised that due to the change of Ministers, the appointment information was now with the current Minister awaiting a decision. Successful and unsuccessful applicants would be advised as soon as Board appointee confirmations were received from the Minister's office.

Murray Darling Association Climate Change Conference – Leeton – The Chair commented on his attendance at the MDA Conference. He advised the Board of the set up of the Murray Darling Basin Authority Reference Committee and the intention of the MDA to try to place two members on this Committee.

Think Tank Project Committee Update – Patty Byrnes

Patty Byrnes presented an update on activities conducted by the Think Tank Project Committee since the last Board meeting in August 2008.

Coonamble Women's Gathering – Patty advised that all arrangements had been finalised and there was a great deal of interest and excitement being generated by the attendees to the Coonamble Women's Gathering 17th – 20th October 2008.

Catchment Conferences – Patty advised that the 2009 Catchment Conference arrangements were progressing with the date set for the 3rd April 2009.

Community Planning and Information Forums – Arrangements for the forums at Pooncarie (23rd October 2008) and Mungo Lodge (20th November 2008) were in the final stages with only the guest speaker for the Mungo Lodge forum to be confirmed.

Indigenous Engagement Committee – Patty reported that the new Indigenous Engagement Committee would be taking place on the 13th October 2008.

Education & Media Relations – Susan Walla

The report by Susan Walla, Education Facilitator, included the following information for the Board.

Website – Internet

The LMDCMA website is updated on a regular basis. Since the last Board meeting in October 2008 the site has been updated with the addition of:

- ❖ Media Release – Pooncarie Community Forum and Program
- ❖ Irrigation Incentives – media release and guidelines
- ❖ Round 1 Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) – media release, guidelines and application form
- ❖ Media Release – 2008 Local Student Photographic Competition winners announced.
- ❖ Media Release – coach to Coonamble Women's Gathering and updates
- ❖ Board Summary August 2008

Wentworth Show

LMD CMA was again represented at the Wentworth Show on 30th & 31st August 2008.

A feature of the LMD CMA tent was a display of work from the joint Lower Murray Darling CMA and Wentworth Public School Threatened Species Project on “Regent Parrots”.

On the Saturday, the Chair, Mark King presented some of the winners of the 2008 Photographic Competition with a certificate, gift voucher and box of chocolates and results were published in the Mildura Weekly on 10th September 2008.

A total of 712 visitors passed through the LMD CMA tent. Of this number, a few NSW landholders attended to collect new irrigation and rangeland incentive information, but the majority of visitors were either locals from Mildura or tourists from interstate (notably South Australia). As in previous years, our student resource information proved popular, even with the interstate tourists.

LMD CMA participated in the “Kids Treasure Hunt”. Eighty-one children were involved and in exchange for our voucher received a curly straw, seed packet and sheet of stickers after answering a question related to animals within our catchment.

Upcoming Events and Activities

LMD CMA has a number of events proposed for 2008/09, including:

2008

- ❖ Community Planning and Information Forum – Mungo 20th November 2008

2009

- ❖ World Wetland Day (with Mallee CMA) – Art Display – February 2009
- ❖ Native Fish Release – on behalf of Landcare Australia – February 2009
- ❖ Catchment Conference – 3rd April 2009
- ❖ Homebush Field Day – 17th April 2009
- ❖ Pooncarie Field Day – 2 May 2009
- ❖ NAIDOC Week – 5th to 12th July 2009
- ❖ Wentworth Show – 29th & 30th August 2009
- ❖ NSW Women’s Gathering – Junee – 18th to 20th September 2009
- ❖ Kerribee Field Day / Crop Walk – September 2009
- ❖ Kilfera Field Day – 7th October 2009
- ❖ National Water Week – 18th to 24th October 2009

Other matters:

The Board discussed other issues including:

- Investment Strategy – Project Status
- Catchment Action Plan
- Regional Landcare Awards 2009
- CMA Statewide Forum

The next Board Meeting has been scheduled for December 10th at Buronga.

Should you require any further information on any of the issues discussed please do not hesitate to contact Lesley Palmer (Manager Corporate Support) at the Buronga Office.



Mark King
Chair

Other recipients:

Don Cooper, GM, Balranald Shire Council
Peter Kozlowski, GM, Wentworth Shire Council
Frank Zaknich, GM, Broken Hill City Council
Tim Hazell, GM, Central Darling Shire
Rob Seekamp, President. Pastoralists Association of West Darling
Brian Steffan, Manager Water, Country Energy
Board Members by email
All CMA Staff by email
LMD CMA Website