



76th National Conference and Annual General Meeting

14-16 September 2020

LOCAL LEADERSHIP: A NATIONAL PRIORITY

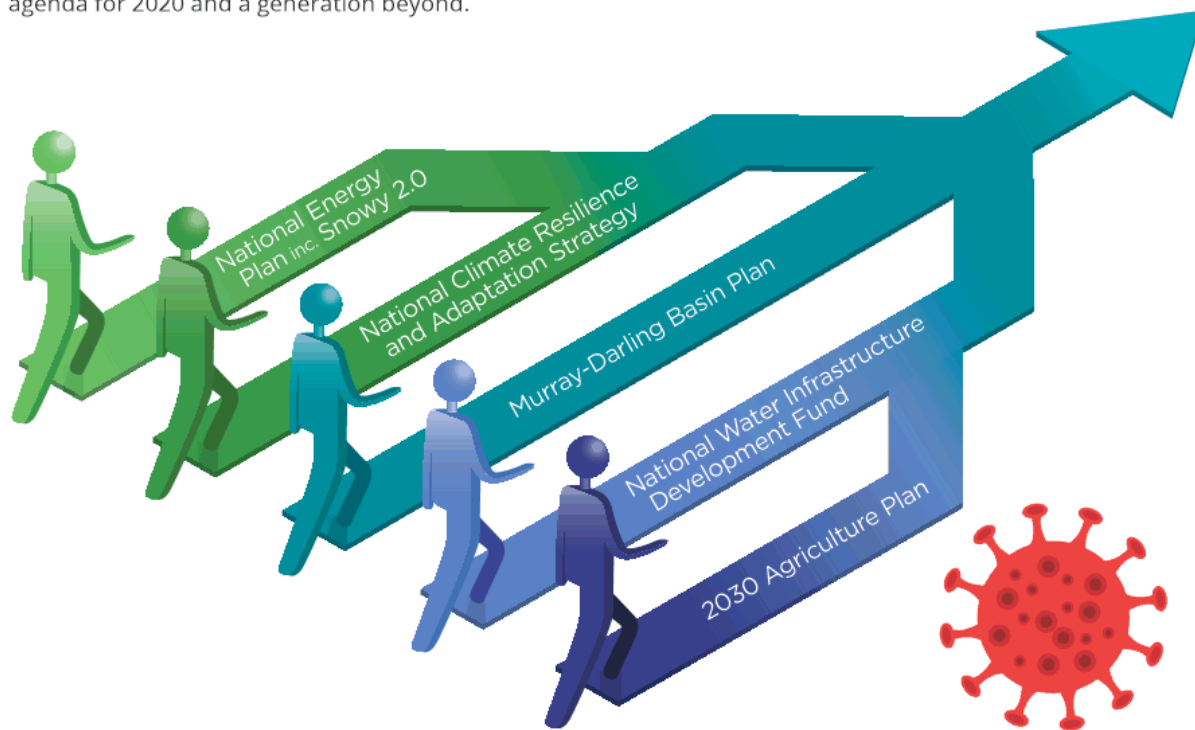


A fully virtual event proudly
presented in partnership with



TRANSFORMING THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME!

Some of the extraordinary plans on the national agenda for 2020 and a generation beyond.



CONFERENCE PASSES

Whether it's one full day of exceptional speakers or the full conference experience, we've got the perfect solution for you.

Our first ever virtual conference has tiered passes, including some sensational value group booking discounts.

	FULL CONFERENCE PASS	SINGLE DAY PASS
Members Fee	\$175.00	\$95.00
Members Group Fee* 5 or more logins	\$150.00	\$80.00
Non-Members Fee	\$195.00	\$105.00
Non-Members Group Fee* 5 or more logins	\$175.00	\$95.00

To register go to <https://cvent.me/aQzwae>

*To receive a group booking discount please contact the MDA's office on (03) 5480 3805



LOCAL LEADERSHIP: A NATIONAL PRIORITY

The MDA's 76th National Conference will be delivered as a fully virtual program. The conference is themed Local Leadership: A National Priority and will explore the relationship between Basin councils and our national plans and priorities.

Presented in partnership with the City of Greater Shepparton 14-16 September 2020, the program will also provide a virtual tour of the Barmah Choke and consider the impacts on the environment, irrigators and regional communities of reduced capacity and increased demand on the delivery system

Now more than ever, Australia is looking to the communities of the Murray-Darling Basin to lead the way in water management, agriculture, energy efficiency and innovation.

As you know, the MDA is tireless in seeking the right balance between valuing, sharing and protecting our incredible natural assets, our infrastructure and our local economies.

Severe drought and bushfires, evolving water markets, climate change, innovations in energy, agriculture, water infrastructure and now COVID-19 all form the backdrop to these extraordinary times.

Local government has a critical role to play in the management of Basin resources if we are to ensure the sustainability, vibrancy and prosperity of our local communities for future generations.

With bold thinking and ambitious planning, we can transform the great challenges of our time into the opportunities of tomorrow. Basin governments already have some extraordinary plans on the national agenda for 2020 and for a generation beyond.

The **Murray-Darling Basin Plan** seeks to utilise, honour and protect one of the biggest and most diverse river systems in the world.

The **National Water Infrastructure Development Fund** will identify and build the water infrastructure of the 21st century.

The **2030 Agriculture Plan** will grow farm gate output to more than \$100 billion in the next decade.

The **National Energy Plan**, including **Snowy 2.0** will deliver a 40 percent boost in the production of cleaner, more reliable energy to power Australia.

And our **National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy** will enable our people, environment, and economy to survive and thrive through climate extremes.

The success of these initiatives, and the nation that relies on them depends on these plans working together, operating in harmony and without conflict, with each other and with our Basin communities.

And that will require that we, too, work hard and work together. It's about local councils and communities working together, working with first nations, with governments and agencies across the Basin, showing leadership and localism which will benefit the entire Basin.

The first step is a **national conversation**, a conversation that will start at the Murray Darling Association's 76th National Conference.

There is only one way to secure the Murray-Darling Basin's place as a world leader in sustainability and prosperity – and that is to make **local leadership a national priority**.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

DAY ONE – MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

TIME	PERSPECTIVE	PRESENTER
MORNING SESSION		
9.30	Log in and mingle in the Green Room	
10.00	Introduction Welcome to country	David Thurley OAM <i>National President, Murray Darling Association</i> Councillor, Albury City Council Local Elder <i>Yorta Yorta Nations</i>
10.30	Virtual study tour of the Goulburn River and Barmah Choke	
10.40	Interests of the environment and regional communities	Ian Davidson <i>Director, Regeneration Solutions</i> Cr Dennis Patterson <i>MDA Region 2, Goulburn Murray</i>
11.00	Opening address	The Hon Michael McCormack <i>Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Development</i>
11.30	Water policy, water markets and changing demand patterns	Chris Olszak <i>Founding Director, AITHER</i>
12.00	Water and sustainability: Australia, the big picture	Professor Tim Flannery <i>Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists</i>

BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION		
1.30	The future of our regions	Liz Richie <i>Chief Executive Officer, Regional Australia Institute</i>
2.00	2030 Roadmap: Australian agriculture's plan for a \$100 billion industry	Fiona Simson <i>National President, National Farmers Federation</i>
2.30	Shaping Australia's water infrastructure future	Brendan McRandle <i>Chief Executive Officer, National Water Grid Authority</i>
3.00	The Murray-Darling Basin Plan in context	Phillip Glyde <i>Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Basin Authority</i>
3.30	Water and our National priorities	The Hon Keith Pitt MP <i>Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia</i>
4.30	CLOSE	



DAY TWO - TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

TIME	PERSPECTIVE	PRESENTER
MORNING SESSION		
10.00	Water security in Australia	Ms Terri Butler MP <i>Member for Griffith Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water</i>
10.30	Climate change risk to Australia's built environment: considerations for local government	Rohan Hamden <i>Chief Executive Officer and Co-Author, Cross Dependency Initiative XDI</i>
11.00	Back on country to build an industry for native foods, grains and grasses	Bruce Pascoe <i>Black Duck Foods, Author Dark Emu: Black Seeds: Agriculture or accident?</i>
11.30	Students showcase our natural environment and projects to improve river and wetland health	Student Presentation <i>RiverConnect</i>
12.00	The Business of Water: Every Drop is Precious (2020) Australian Institute of Company Directors	Adam Courtenay <i>Journalist/Author</i>

BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION		
1.30	Murray-Darling Basin water markets inquiry Interim Report (2020)	Mick Keogh <i>Deputy Chair, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</i>
2.00	RAMJO Water security sub-committee: Regional Water Position Paper (2020)	Bridgett Leopold <i>Executive Officer, Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation RAMJO</i>
2.30	Snowy 2.0 a nation-building renewable energy project	Andrew Nolan <i>General Manager, Water and Environment, Snow Hydro</i>
3.00	Healthy rivers, healthy communities	Jody Swirepik <i>Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office</i>
3.30	Water literacy, collaboration and a single source	Mick Keelty <i>Interim Inspector-General Murray-Darling Basin Water Resources</i>

DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

10.00	Harnessing the opportunities – our global expertise in water, agriculture and food science	Dr Carmel Pollino <i>CSIRO</i>
10.30	Vision 2025: The way forward for Basin communities	Emma Bradbury <i>CEO Murray Darling Association</i>
11.00	Murray Darling Association 76th Annual General Meeting	



PRESENTERS



CR DAVID THURLEY OAM

National president Murray Darling Association

David has been national president MDA since 2014 and is a councillor with Albury City Council.

He is also an accomplished scientist, astronomer, and futurist.


David's expertise in the treatment of waste water has taken him to Malaysia, Brazil, England, France, Sweden and Greece.

Your notes: 



LOCAL ELDER

Yorta Yorta Nations

Your notes: 



IAN DAVIDSON

Chair Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group

Ian is a professional wildlife biologist from Wangaratta who has worked extensively in and around the Murray Valley with land and water managers for over 35 years.

Ian has a thorough working knowledge of Barmah-Millewa forest including monitoring of the endangered Australasian Bittern and a major River Red Gum ecological thinning trial centred in the NSW Murray Valley National Parks.

He has a deep understanding of natural processes associated with riparian, wetland and floodplain ecology in the southern basin.

Your notes: 

**CR DENNIS PATTERSON**

Region 2 Chair

Dennis will be hosting the virtual study tour to the Barmah Choke at the national conference.

He is now in his seventh year as a councillor for the City of Greater Shepparton and still passionate about the place he calls home. Dennis sees developments like Museum of Vehicle Evolution MOVE, SAM and the new fish hatchery as putting Shepparton front and centre on the tourist map.

Dennis is particularly interested in the Murray Darling Basin Plan and represents Shepparton council on the Murray Darling Association, chairing region 2 which takes in most of northern Victoria and southern NSW.

Your notes: 

**THE HON MICHAEL MCCORMACK MP**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Michael was elected the Nationals' member for Riverina in 2010. He secured a better deal for irrigators, farming families and communities in the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Michael became leader of the Nationals and Deputy Prime Minister in February 2018. He delivered federal funding for dams, and record funding for infrastructure and regional development in the first budget under his leadership.

Michael is focused on building a strong and vibrant future for rural and regional Australia and the 8.8 million Australians who call it home.

Your notes: 



PRESENTERS CONTINUED



CHRIS OLSZAK

Founder and director Aither

Aither is an advisory firm established to help governments and businesses make better decisions about water, infrastructure and the environment.

Chris has led major water management inquiries and reviews for government, and regularly presents to irrigator groups on market trends and drivers.

He oversees Aither's water markets advisory services including production of their publicly available annual water markets report.

Your notes: 




TIM FLANNERY

Distinguished visiting fellow in climate change Australian Museum, Sydney

2007 Australian of the Year, in 2013 Tim founded and is chief councillor Australian Climate Council.

Flannery has taught at Harvard University, and has advised governments both in Australia and Canada. In 2011 was appointed Australia's first climate commissioner.

Tim has published over 140 peer-reviewed scientific papers. His 32 books include *The Future Eaters* and *The Weather Makers*, which has been translated into over 20 languages. He has made numerous documentaries and regularly writes for the *New York Review of Books*.

Your notes: 



LIZ RITCHIE

CEO Regional Australia Institute

Liz joined RAI in 2018 as General Manager Strategy and Partnerships.

For over 20 years, Liz has worked across the corporate, government and the not for profit sector, specialising in leading organisational transformation to build a sustainable future.

Liz is an extremely passionate advocate for regional Australia, heralding from Deniliquin NSW.

In October 2018, Liz was appointed by The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to be a non-government independent member of the Indonesian – Australia partnership on Food Security in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector.

Your notes: 

**FIONA SIMSON**


President National Farmers' Federation

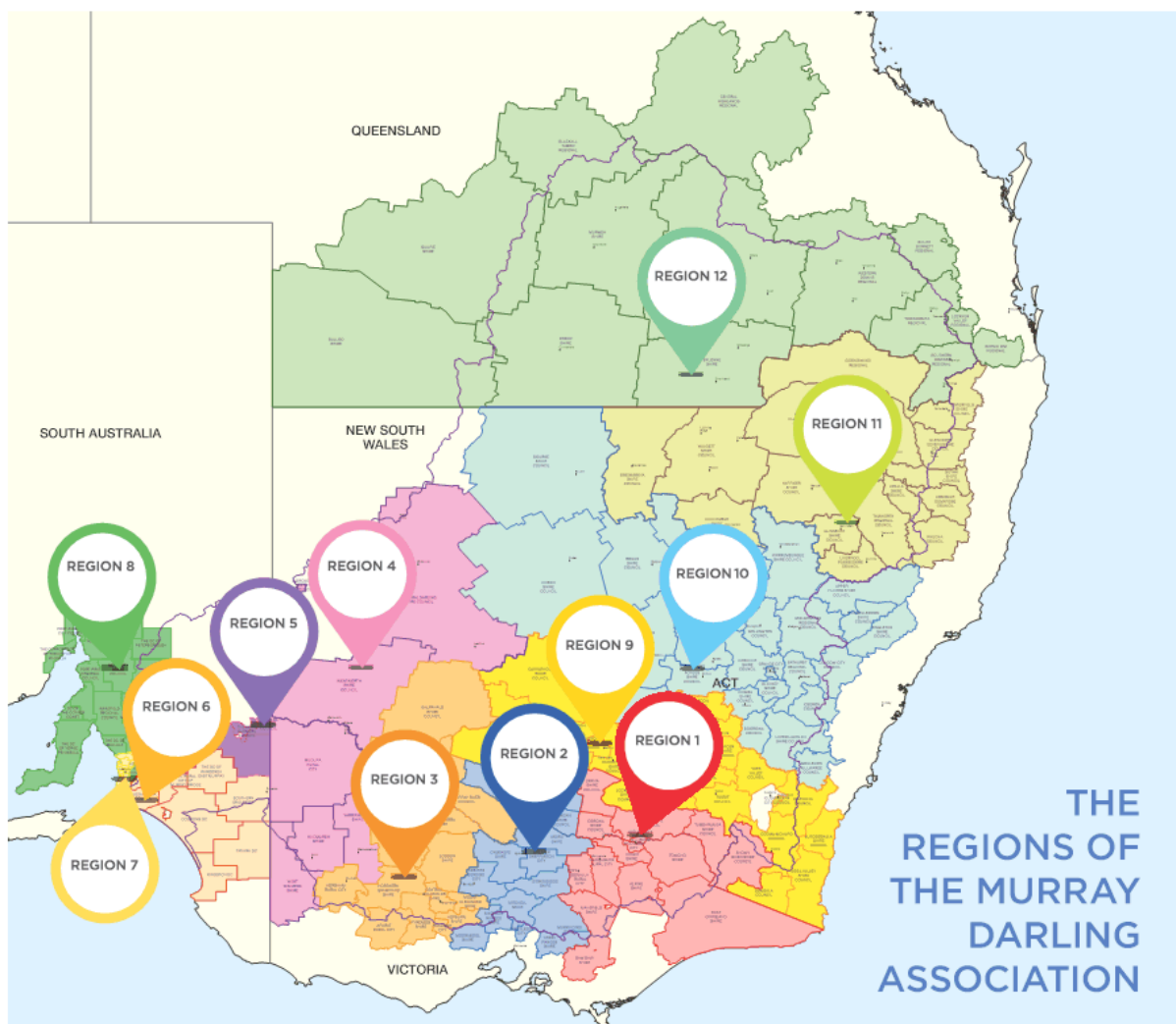
Fiona farms with her family in a mixed farming enterprise including broadacre farming and a commercial cattle enterprise.

After a career in local government and leadership of the NSW Farmers' Federation, Fiona was elected president NFF November 2016.

Passionate about the power of a unified voice for agriculture, Fiona believes in its role in a strong and vibrant future for regional Australia.

Fiona also sits on a number of federal government advisory committees.

Your notes: 



**THE
REGIONS OF
THE MURRAY
DARLING
ASSOCIATION**



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

LOCAL PRIORITIES - NATIONAL INFLUENCE



FACT:

we helped kick-start the Snowy scheme over 70 years ago!

The benefits of MDA membership are now flowing freely to all our regions.

The MDA is your peak body for local government in the management of Basin water resources, working harmoniously to **inform and influence** state and federal government.

Water plays a unique role in so many important local issues:



AGRICULTURE



INDUSTRY



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNITY SERVICES



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



ABORIGINAL



IRRIGATION



TOURISM



URBAN SUPPLY



BUSINESS



FACT:

today's Basin Plan is world-leading watersharing legislation. Council influence is more important than ever!



FACT:

working with river operators to optimise flow during peak holiday periods to avoid economic losses

Here's why your council has so much influence, as an MDA member:



regions meet quarterly to establish your priorities



chairs meet monthly to understand and support your priorities at a Basin scale



annual national conference



multi-level information sharing.



FACT:

partnering the National Carp Control Plan to engage councils about a better approach to feral fish management. Results so far are exciting!

Local government united – to **inform and influence**.

Ensure your council's membership!

www.mda.asn.au / admin@mda.asn.au



sponsorship presentation TBC

PRESENTERS CONTINUED



BRENDAN MCRANDLE PSM

CEO National Water Grid Authority

On 30 January 2020, Brendan was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of National Water Grid Authority NWGA and Deputy Secretary Water Infrastructure within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional and Communications.

The National Water Grid Authority was established 1 October 2019. The NWGA provides advice to the Australian government on water infrastructure policy and investment decisions to support the growth of Australia's agriculture sector and create more resilient regional economies.

Your notes: 



PHILLIP GLYDE

CEO Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Before his appointment in January 2016, Phillip was deputy secretary Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. In that role he was responsible for agriculture, fisheries and forestry policy, international trade and market access, export certification services and the department's research division, the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

Prior to this Phillip worked on a number of natural resource management, industry and environment policies and programs.

Phillip has an honours degree in Natural Resource Management and a Bachelor of Economics.

Your notes: 



THE HON. KEITH PITT MP

Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia

Since he was elected Federal member for Hinkler in 2013, Keith has continued to work hard, delivering for the residents in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and all the small townships in between.

Keith entered politics to be a strong local voice for regional Australia.

His focus is on attracting more investment to the region and helping to build a stronger regional economy, bringing more job opportunities now and into the future.

Your notes: 

PRESENTERS CONTINUED



TERRI BUTLER

Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water.

Terri has been in parliament since the 2014 by-election, succeeding Kevin Rudd as the Member for Griffith.

During this time, she has worked on issues as diverse as innovation, supporting the AFLW, marriage equality, and employment services.

Terri holds a BA/LLB(Hons) from QUT and a Grad Dip Econ from UNE.

Prior to entering parliament she became a partner at a Queensland law firm, and then founded Maurice Blackburn's Queensland employment and industrial law practice.

Your notes:



ROHAN HAMDEN *B.Sc Biotechnology, Microbial Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, B.Sc. Cons & Park Mgmt, MBA Advanced*

CEO XDI

In 2017 Rohan co-founded The Cross Dependency Initiative which provides infrastructure risk assurance services based on climate change science, infrastructure engineering and advanced statistical methods.

After nearly 15 years in government, Rohan's last role was as Director of the Climate Adaptation Program for South Australia. This program has seen a transformation in how communities and industries work together to adapt to climate change. Rohan has advised various state and national governments on their climate adaptation programs in Australia, Canada, USA and the UK.

Your notes:



BRUCE PASCOE

Author, farmer and agricultural researcher

Of Tasmanian, Bunurong and Yuin descent, Bruce has worked as a teacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, fencing contractor, lecturer, Aboriginal language researcher, archaeological site worker and editor.

Bruce is an award-winning author who has written over thirty books spanning fiction, non-fiction and children's titles. His recent book *Dark Emu: Black Seeds: agriculture or accident* won the NSW Premier's Book of the Year Award in 2016.

In 2018, Bruce was the recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature.

Your notes:



RIVERCONNECT

Partnership program

Celebrating 15 years in 2020, RiverConnect is a partnership program of agencies, environment groups and community members in Greater Shepparton.

Working with schools, their vision is to connect people, rivers and wetlands.

Students learn about our natural environment and participate in projects to improve river and wetland health.

Your notes: 



ADAM COURTENAY

Writer and journalist

Adam has had a long career in the UK and Australia, writing for papers such as the Financial Times, the Sunday Times, the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Australian Financial Review.

The son of the best-selling Australian novelist, Bryce Courtenay, author of the worldwide bestseller, *The Power of One*, Adam has written five books.

In 2018 he published *The Ship that Never Was* with Harper Collins and his latest is entitled *The Ghost & the Bounty Hunter*, the story of William Buckley, who lived for 32 years with the Wadawurrung people of Geelong, becoming the first white-man Aborigine.

Your notes: 



MICK KEOGH OAM

Deputy Chair ACCC

Mick was appointed to the ACCC in February 2016, and then as Deputy Chair in 2018 with responsibility for small business and agriculture.

Mick has a long and diverse history with the small business and agriculture sector, including periods as a business consultant, in advocacy and advisory roles to policymakers and governments.

He is also currently a member of a number of government and private sector boards.

Mick holds bachelor's and master's degrees in science and a Doctor of Applied Science honoris causa.

Your notes: 

PRESENTERS CONTINUED



BRIDGETT LEOPOLD

Executive officer Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation

Bridgett now works with regional leaders to drive collaboration and advocacy outcomes.

Before this, during her role as a commercial manager at global FMCG Mars, Bridgett developed a passion for achieving win/win outcomes and the practical application of organisational ethics.

She has also worked in both the ACT and South Australia state governments in policy, management and advisory roles across areas including energy, climate change and cabinet office.

Your notes:



ANDREW NOLAN

General Manager, Water and Environment, Snowy Hydro

With more than 17 years with Snowy Hydro, Andrew heads up general management of Water and Environment function.

Andrew has led the environmental planning and approval process for Snowy 2.0.

Your notes:



JODY SWIREPIK

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

Jody was appointed to this position in February 2018, following the retirement of David Papps.

Prior, Jody spent 3 years with the Clean Energy Regulator working on carbon farming and emissions reduction reverse auctions, national emissions reporting, and liability acquittal for Australia's renewable energy target.

Jody has over 25 years experience in the water sector, responsible for driving a range of initiatives at the state and federal levels, including state water reforms, The Living Murray and parts of the Basin Plan.

Your notes:

**MICK KEELTY AO APM**

Interim Inspector-General Murray–Darling Basin Water Resources

Mick previously served as the Northern Basin Commissioner overseeing the implementation of the Northern Basin Review recommendations. He also monitored, audited and reported on a range of activities in the northern Basin.

Mick was an officer with the Australian Federal Police for 35 years, with 8 and half years as Commissioner of Police.

He is an Adjunct Professor at both the Australian National University and Charles Sturt University and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Your notes: 

**CARMEL POLLINO**

Research Director for Water Security at Land and Water CSIRO

As a principal research scientist, Dr Carmel Pollino has 20 years experience working on water issues in Australia and throughout Asia.

She has worked extensively in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Carmel has degrees in science and environmental law and works across the science and policy interface.

She has an established portfolio of research spanning environmental flows, hydrology, ecology and integrated river basin planning.

Your notes: 



Murray Darling Association
Level 1, 250 Anstruther St
Echuca Vic 3564
Ph 03 5480 3805
Email admin@mda.asn.au
www.mda.asn.au