
NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS PAPER – 13 MARCH 2024
MAYORAL MINUTE

1. MAYORAL DIARY

February 2024

5 February	Country Mayors Association Executive Meeting
8 February	Meeting with Charles Sturt University Meeting with 'The Land' Trangie Action Group Meeting
9 February	Meeting with Inland Rail Meeting with Aviation Representatives
12 February	Meeting with Business Operator Meeting with CEO of Regional Development Australia
13 February	Meeting with Joint Select Committee on Protecting Local Water Utilities from Privatisation
14 February	Meeting with Superintendent and Sector Supervisor from Orana Mid-Western Police District Ordinary Council Meeting
19 February	Meeting with Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
20 February	Official opening of the Mitchell Highway Overtaking Lanes, Transport for NSW Meeting with Telstra Representatives
21 February	Meeting with Federal Member for Parkes, Hon Mark Coulton, MP
22 February	Meeting with Settlement Service Industry
23 February	Murray Darling Basin Authority Meeting
26 February	Country Mayors Association Executive Meeting
28 February	Meeting with Minister Plibersek in Canberra Murray Darling Association Meeting in Canberra
29 February	Trangie Showground and Racecourse Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

2. DEPUTY MAYORAL DIARY

February 2024

5 February	Local Traffic Committee Meeting
8 February	Bring Your Bills Day Event Narromine
14 February	Ordinary Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

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3. DELEGATES REPORT – MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION

Attached is my delegate report on the Murray Darling Association meeting held on 28 February 2024 (**See Attachment No. 1**).

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

Cr Craig Davies
Mayor

DELEGATE REPORT

COUNCILLOR REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT:

Murray Darling Association (MDA) Meeting

COUNCILLOR: **Cr Davies**

DATE ATTENDED: **28 February 2024**

1. Main Purpose of Conference/Visit/Meeting

To collaborate with Shires across the Murray Darling Basin to influence outcomes in water and the circular economy.

2. Key Messages/Highlights of Relevance to Council

The Federal Minister for Environment and Water, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, the Federal Shadow Minister for Water, Senator Perin Davey as well as the outgoing Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Executive Director River Management, Mr Andrew Reynolds were all in attendance.

MDA Board Chairs and Member representatives reflected on current and ongoing issues and points of interest within the Murray-Darling Basin (the Basin), with a strong focus on the Federal Government's progressing plans regarding water purchasing program.

During the meeting with Federal Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek an update was provided on the Association's advocacy on the Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023, which included 11 recommendations for Federal Government.

The Minister indicated that the Federal Government was well underway into addressing the recommendations to meet water demands with less water, and to reduce non-riparian Local Government reliance on the Murray-Darling Basin, with \$103M included in the last budget to redo the science to address the changing climate, as well as through the Resilient Rivers program.

While the Minister indicated that over-recovered water from the Macquarie Valley did not count towards any of the currently standing targets, I was able to provide an alternate use for the water, being that if it cannot be returned to the Macquarie Valley, that it be utilised for Indigenous, or cultural heritage purposes. Minister Plibersek had indicated that this utilisation of water had not been considered. The Minister also indicated that the bulk of water purchasing will need to come from the south, as that is where the bulk of the water is.

3. Benefits to Narromine Shire Council

Advancing with water and circular economy opportunities in the Narromine Shire.

4. Suggestions for Future Action (if appropriate)

Maintain an active role in this organisation, and as a member of the Executive Team, to provide advice in relation to local and regional water issues and to enhance outcomes.

Signature: Cr Craig Davies

Date: 6/3/2024