EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Murray Darling Association Inc. is holding their 67th National Conference and Annual General Meeting at Dalby, Queensland between 7-9 September 2011.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Wulf Reichler has advised that he is a life long member of the Association and has shown an interest in attending this Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Council is advised that the Murray Darling Association is hosting a Mining and Agriculture special forum to explore the challenges and possibilities of these industries at Narrabri on 18 November 2011. Council may wish to consider whether an elected official should attend this forum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost for attending the Conference is $400, plus the cost of fuel to and from Dalby. A Council vehicle will be available for use if Council agrees with the recommendation.

Council has a budget line item called Delegate Expenses that can fund the cost for a Councillor to attend this Conference.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The Report on “67th National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Murray Darling Association” be received; and
2. Council support the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W Reichler attending the 67th National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Murray Darling Association.
Wednesday 7th September to Friday 9th September 2011
Dalby, Queensland.

‘Floods and Drought-Feast or Famine’

Conference Theme
In her poem (1906) “My Country”, Dorothea Mackellar says

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine
She pays us back threefold.

Times following natural disasters strengthen the resolve of communities and the nation. Change also challenges our communities. This conference will look at the effects of natural disasters on our great river system.

Additionally the new coal seam gas industry is providing some concerns in parts of the Basin where there is a conflict between the benefit of this much-needed energy resource and the need for a well-preserved water resource.

The questions on everyone’s minds are:

Can coal seam gas and the Great Artesian Basin both survive?
The Draft Basin Plan - its intended consequences on Basin Communities?
Is it possible to have the same rules for the Northern Rivers System as is planned for the Southern Connected System?

Contact
Adelaide - Ph: 08 8226 4402 - Fax: 08 8226 4408
Albury - Ph: 02 6021 3655 - Fax: 02 6021 2025
Email: admin@mda.asn.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Wednesday, 7th September</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Civic Reception Mayor’s Civic Reception – Lake Broadwater – commencing at 6pm with campfire ovens, fine wines, best beers, true country Australian entertainment spectacular as the sun sets on the horizon!</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday, 8th September</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Delegates call to order - National Anthem</td>
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<td>8:35</td>
<td>Welcome to the Western Downs Regional Council - Mayor Ray Brown</td>
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<td>8:45</td>
<td>Welcome to Country by Traditional Owners – TBA</td>
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<td>8:55</td>
<td>Introduction to the day – Ken Rogers, MDA National President</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Official Opening and Keynote Address</td>
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<td>Minister Tony Burke (invited)</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>Where is the Basin Plan up to?</td>
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<td>The Hon. Craig Knowles – Chairman of the MDBA - “Where is the Basin Plan up to?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Questions</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>The New Basin Plan - Panel Session</td>
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<td>Mr Phil McCullough, CEO - Condamine Alliance; Mr Geoff Penton, CEO - QMDC, Mr David Harriss, Commissioner - NSW Office of Water</td>
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<td>11:40</td>
<td>Questions to panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>School Students Presentations (Local schools to be involved)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Sponsor Presentations</td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:40</td>
<td>Coal Seam Gas - “The impacts of emerging industries on Agriculture and Water Management in the Basin” (speakers TBA – Arrow Energy)</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
<td>Julia Seddon, Group Environment Manager, Inghmas Enterprises; Efficient Use of Water</td>
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<td>2:20</td>
<td>Jenni Mattilla, Principal - Mattilla Lawyers: Water Law</td>
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<td>2:40</td>
<td>Panel Questions</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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and Annual General Meeting 2011

THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

3:30 The Condamine - Balonne How Practical for SA - Panel Session (Water)
Senator Barnaby Joyce - Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water
“The reality of Qld floods reaching SA - fact or fantasy”

3:50 Dr Ben Gawne – Director, Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre – “Science: challenges and opportunities, and how do communities and Local Government respond to science?”

4:10 Q & A
4:20 Report back and wrap up
5:00 Close
6:30 Pre Dinner Drinks - Dalby RSL
7:00 Dinner – Entertainment, presentation of awards and invite to next conference
Prof. Bobbie Brazil - Chancellor University of Southern Queensland - Guest Speaker

FRIDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

AM
Welcome
8:30 Commencement of AGM
National President – Mr Ken Rogers

9:00 OFFICIAL OPENING OF the AGM and Keynote Address
The Hon Bruce Scott MP - Member for Maranoa

9:30 AGM

10:45 Morning Tea

11:15 Representative of The Hon. Rachel Nolan- Qld Minister for Environment and Water

11:30 AGM - Murray-Darling Environment Foundation

PM
12:45 Close

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Bus to Western Downs Regional Council award winning Water Treatment Plant – inspection of plant and talk by Western Downs Regional Council Water Manager

4:45 Cocktail food and drinks to follow.
Western Downs Regional Council warmly welcomes delegates to Dalby
The Western Downs region is a vibrant “go ahead” rural community

“The Energy Capital of Australia”

For more information on the region please contact the Dalby Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Drayton & Condamine Sts Dalby QLD 4405
Tel: (07) 46621066

Partners Tours

Thursday 8th September    Bell - Jimbour
After attending the official opening and morning tea an exploration of the region will begin with a drive through the fertile farming country to the village of Bell which nestles at the base of the Bunya Mountains and has spectacular views of the mountains and surrounding farmland.
After touring the attractions of Bell lunch will follow at Bluebells Art Gallery & Coffee Shop and then continue onto to Jimbour House, a magnificent reminder of dignified early settlement. Interpretive signage throughout the grounds, stalls and stables tells the story of the early days. Although the house is closed to the public, as it is a private residence, this does not lessen the experience as the visitor is overcome by the aura of magnificence and grandeur of the setting.
You will continue on to Dalby via the village of Jimbour.

Friday 9th September    Discover Dalby
Today you will be joined by a local identity on a tour of Dalby. The tour will take you from the humble beginnings of Dalby through the years of agricultural and industrial development to the present day.
You will continue your discovery of Dalby at the Pioneer Park Museum which has many surprises including a flying saucer and a letter from Ned Kelly.
After exploring the Museum you will return to the RSL for lunch.

Saturday 10th September
TBA