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February 2021

Mayor Ambrose Doolan and Council
Mr Roger Bailey
General Manager
Warrumbungle Shire Council
Coonabarabran, NSW

Dear Roger,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Mayor Davies and myself in Coonabarabran earlier this week.

As discussed, I would like to take the opportunity to provide detailed information about the benefit to member councils and their communities of membership to the MDA, and invite your council to join the association. This information may be particularly useful as your council prepares its annual budget.

As you are aware, the MDA is the peak body representing councils across the Murray-Darling Basin. As we grapple with changes in climate, inflows, technologies, production and infrastructure, the issue of water security into the future is of acute concern to all councils.

With over 167 councils in the MDB, the ongoing partnership between your Council and the Murray Darling Association elevates local and regional issues and priorities to the state and federal level providing national recognition of local priorities.

Your membership to the MDA delivers social, economic, and environmental benefits to your community by creating partnerships, participating in events, and accessing networks and services that align with and support your Communities plan, in the areas of Community, Environment, Economy and Council.

We know that councils and the local government sector are increasingly resource challenged and are looking for services, relationships and partnerships that assist in achieving your council's and your region's strategic priorities.

Water, land management, energy and community wellbeing are front and centre of almost every council's priorities. A strong relationship between council and the MDA provides opportunities to

- partner with councils and regional groups in providing local case studies and experience to support regional and national positions and advocacy strategies.
- raise the profile of your council and the local government sector through MDA's partnerships with the Commonwealth.
- present strategically aligned priorities, objectives, and advocacy to state and federal governments.
- leverage regional efficiencies and Basin-scale capability and positions.

Benefits to your community

The MDA fosters a culture of community collaboration and leadership development to improve social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Working together with member councils and our regions, we achieve policy change and ensure local knowledge informs the national dialogue on water reform, land management, environmental sustainability, leadership development and education, and regional economic diversification.

Your council's participation at MDA region and national meetings builds your council's regional relationships and elevates your community's priorities to the state and federal level, informing decisions and outcomes that impact your local area.

Benefits to your environment.

There is no future on a dry riverbed. At the core of our vision is a strong emphasis on science and education to inform policies for the sustainable management of Basin resources to ensure a healthy and prosperous future.

The MDA's vision, which drives our strategic and operational direction, is for *local government and communities to work together to achieve a healthy, vibrant and thriving Murray-Darling Basin*. As a result, the MDA has:

- Partnered with CSIRO with a focus on science and education to address some of the Basin's toughest challenges.
- Advocated for and represented local government in environmental issues, including floodplain harvesting etc.
- Partnered with Murray-Darling Basin Authority, better supporting local government through information sharing and representation.
- Supported regions to develop Climate Ready Communities statements

Benefits to your economy

For many, if not all, Basin communities, water security plays an important role in economic growth and sustainability. Through the MDA's regional alignments and partnerships, member councils leverage the value of knowledge sharing across the local government and regional development sectors to peruse water quality, water security and other priorities.

Every year the MDA hosts a range of regionally and nationally significant events delivering economic benefits, both directly and indirectly to Basin communities and regions. The MDA's 77th National Conference and AGM is scheduled to be held this year in May at Wentworth.

The MDA provides member councils with partnerships that support regional economic development and diversification initiatives.

Benefits to your council

Our mission is to provide high value services to our members, and their communities by delivering quality projects, events and products create enduring value for Basin communities and governments.

Membership of Murray Darling Association 2020/2021 fees are calculated at \$0.305 per head of population, capped at \$6,681.82. Population is based on latest ABS census data. Cap applies at 21,907 population. Census data from 2016 on the ABN website indicates that Warrumbungle Shire Council's population stands at 9,384. This would make cost of membership \$2,862.12 plus GST.

The MDA recently launched the [Basin Communities Leadership Program](#). Funded under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program, the MDA developed the program which is valued at over \$4500 per participant and aims to build capacity, resilience, and leadership skills for the benefit of your community in meeting the increasing challenges of changing climate and water availability.

The program will be delivered in cohorts of 15 participants each in regions across the basin during 2021 and beyond. The programmes are available fully funded or on a fee for service basis. Each funded workshop represents a combined contribution to the regions' economies of more than \$4,800 per place or \$67,500 per cohort. We are genuinely excited by the possibility of delivering this leadership development training in your council, and your community.

Our achievements

The Murray Darling Association has been successful in shifting policies to better reflect the needs of the Basin communities, and we are continuing to grow our reach and impact as portrayed in our [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

The relationship between the MDA and our member Councils contributes strongly to the development of the local government sector as a whole and our collective role in ensuring a vibrant, sustainable future for the Murray-Darling Basin.

I look forward to continuing to work with your Council in the years ahead to deliver benefits to yours and all Basin communities and council.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at ceo@mda.asn.au, call 03 5480 3805. I look forward to working with your council into the future.

Kind Regards



Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer



DRAFT QUOTE

Warrumbungle Shire Council
Mr Roger Bailey
General Manager
PO Box 191
COONABARABRAN NSW 2357
ABN: 63 348 671 239

Date
22 Feb 2021

Quote Number
QU-596

Reference
Membership Fee

ABN
64 636 490 493

MURRAY DARLING
ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED
Attention: Emma Bradbury
Level 1, 250 Anstruther
Street
PO Box 1268
ECHUCA VIC 3564

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount AUD
Membership of Murray Darling Association 2019/2020 Fees calculated at \$0.305 per head of population, capped at \$6,681.82. Population based on latest ABS census data. Cap applies at 21,907 population.	9384.00	0.305	10%	2,862.12
			Subtotal	2,862.12
			TOTAL GST 10%	286.21
			TOTAL AUD	3,148.33