



# Basin Community Committee

*Bringing a community perspective to the Murray–Darling Basin*

## COMMUNIQUE

27 October 2020

The Basin Community Committee urgently wants to start a conversation about how the Murray–Darling Basin can adapt to climate change, and discuss what a healthy working river looks like into the future.

At its virtual meeting on 21 October, Committee members said they were keen to influence longer-term thinking about the future of the Basin.

Committee members continue to focus on communities being at the centre of the Basin Plan, ensuring that community voices are heard throughout the Basin.

In doing so, they have a deep interest in making sure collaborations and partnerships are strengthened by all agencies working in water reform – to support them to better understand and consider the views of the broad community, together.

This meeting also provided Committee members with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia Keith Pitt and briefly raise their communities' key concerns.

The Committee was pleased to hear the MDBA's progress in becoming more regionalised, including hearing about a new position – the Commonwealth Coordination role (shared between the MDBA, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment) – to be based in Goolwa SA that will continue to connect communities across the Basin. This is another clear example that the Committee can be a mechanism to influence stronger communications and interaction with the many communities across the Basin.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment updated Committee members on Government investments in the Basin, especially initiatives to build community resilience and develop regions. Committee members were pleased to hear about efforts to improve transparency and accountability, especially within the Department. They were also pleased to hear about constraints work, and look forward to its local government representatives meeting with the Department to better design how this work happens.

**The Basin Community Committee is an independent advisory committee to the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and the Murray–Darling Basin Ministerial Council. Established under the Water Act 2007, the Committee ensures the voices of diverse communities in the Basin are heard.**

**For more information on the Basin Community Committee**

 [www.mdba.gov.au/BCC](http://www.mdba.gov.au/BCC)  1800 630 114



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Committee members welcomed the wetter conditions across the Basin – noting the rain has been variable but has contributed to a lot more confidence and hope among communities – and are keen to see planning get underway for managing La Nina conditions.

With expressions of interest open for both members and the Chair to commence September 2021, the Committee also encouraged people to consider nominating (applications close 3 December 2020; details at [www.mdba.gov.au/careers](http://www.mdba.gov.au/careers)).

This meeting followed a successful joint meeting the day before with the Basin Officials Committee and Murray-Darling Basin Authority, where the focus was on strengthening connections between the 3 key groups (see the [communique](#)).

## BACKGROUND

Members of the Committee were appointed by the Authority after an extensive selection process involving all Basin governments. They reflect the diverse perspectives of towns and communities across the Basin, as well as the diversity of experiences around water reform.

Contact your local Basin Community Committee member via [enagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:enagement@mdba.gov.au) to share your views on how the Basin Plan is being implemented.

See a full list of members and map at [mdba.gov.au/BCC](http://mdba.gov.au/BCC)

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