



# Basin Community Committee

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

## COMMUNIQUE

22 July 2022

Meeting #74 of the Basin Community Committee was held in Mildura on 31 May 2022.

The Basin Community Committee met face to face in Mildura for the first time since the February 2022 appointment of the fourth cohort, with those unable to travel attending virtually.

The Committee appreciated a comprehensive presentation from Mr Andrew Kremor, Executive Director, River Management and Manager of the MDBA's Mildura Office on the **Mildura region**. Assisted by Committee members Sue Rudd and Mike Kilby who live and work in Mildura, Andrew explored the Mildura economy, irrigation sector, cultural and environmental assets, social issues and the tourism opportunities in the region.

Members of the Committee provided their Basin insights for the Authority reflecting on current environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions in their regions. There were many **consistent themes** across the entire Basin including good seasonal conditions, high commodity prices and very tight labour market issues. The widespread flooding in the northern Basin was noted by northern members.

The Committee was provided an overview of early planning for the **2025 Basin Plan Evaluation** by the MDBA's Evaluation team. Members voiced their support for the process and expressed a strong interest to be involved in further design to ensure the evaluation can meet community needs.

The Committee appreciated an **update** from the Authority's acting Chief Executive, Mr Andrew Reynolds who was at the time eagerly waiting the appointment of the new Australian Government minister responsible for Water. Mr Reynolds highlighted key priorities of the new government, including implementation of the Basin Plan, meeting the challenge of climate change and increasing First Nations ownership and participation in water management.

The Committee was pleased to receive an overview from MDBA Director of River Operations Tyson Milne on how the timing and location of rainfall impacts the flows observed in the Lower Murray region, including a comparison of the 2016 and 2021 seasons which had relatively similar

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For more information on the Basin Community Committee

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volumes of inflows but very different peak flow rates in this reach. This assisted the Committee to understand why, even though 2021/22 was a relatively wet year, there was not a high flow event in the region.

Following the meeting, Committee members met jointly with the Murray–Darling Basin Authority Board and the Basin Officials Committee. While in Mildura, they also attended the River reflections conference to connect with members of the community and stakeholders from across the Basin.

### **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 [engagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mdba.gov.au) to share your views on how the Basin Plan is being implemented.

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

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