

Council Member Training & Conference Report Form



Council Member Name: Cr Stephen Coppins

Name of Training/Conference: MDA National Conference 2019

Dates of Training/Conference: 22-24 October 2019

Location of Training/Conference: Toowoomba, Queensland

Was this a group training session? Yes No

Please provide a brief overview of the topics discussed at the training/conference:

Dr JACKI SCHIRMER Assoc. PROFESSOR - UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

With the severe drought throughout the Darling Downs region, farmers on the land are struggling in more ways than just the lack of rainfall impacting their ability to farm the land and provide for their families, the mental and physical wellbeing of these communities need to take precedence, as they are generally a close knit community where everyone else knows each other's affairs.

A large majority of these communities are the first to roll up their sleeves to help others out where needed, however they're reluctant to raise their own need for assistance with others, due to the belief that there's others out here doing things a lot tougher than themselves.

Approximately 60% of the farming community don't apply for the drought assistance packages available from the government, sighting the application processes being either too hard or far too complicated, therefore the lack of being able to access these packages, contributes greatly to the already devastating impact of the current drought conditions.

PAUL BRIMBLECOMBE GENERAL MANAGER - CUBBIE STATION

Cubbie Station in August 2019, sold to Macquarie Infrastructure & Real Assets Ltd a 49% stake in the property, this is in accordance with regulations from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) direction, as a consequence of this sale the agreement is that Cubbie Station will release 10GL of water from their holding, in times of need on a voluntary basis and not to be reimbursed.

In April 2017, this was the last time that Cubbie Station extracted any of their water allocation from the river system, at that time they only extracted 10% of their entitlement allowing any additional water to pass by and continue along the river for environmental purposes, at the current time there is NO WATER in the storage dams of Cubbie Station and this has been the case for the past two (2) years.

There are 1,500 Cotton Growers throughout the region, which in order to produce crops utilise 900ML per annum, per hectare, in order to plant the annual crop this costs the growers on average \$3.888 per hectare compared to \$567 per hectare for Wheat growers, Cubbie Station provide employment opportunities for 115 people which include 60 contractors, while wheat growers provide employment opportunities for 60 including 20 contractors.

BRUCE McCONNEL GM FOOD LEADERS AUSTRALIA TOOWOOMBA & SURAT BASIN ENTERPRISE (TSBE)

TSBE are a networking organisation for businesses within the region, with over 200 members, they create opportunities and agreements for their members to utilise the services of each other, the services they network are not limited to the Agricultural communities but include IT, Manufacturing, Food Production etc.

Through this service, growers that may have a faulty irrigation system somewhere along their vast irrigation systems, instead of wasting valuable time and effort resources, can utilise the services of one of the other members that have the ability via satellite to place sound waves into the irrigation system and identify within one (1) metre where any leak may be

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located, enabling the repair to be undertaken in a much quicker fashion and also preventing greater loss of water resources.

DAVID WHISKAR EXEC DIRECTOR QLD Dept NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING & ENERGY (NRME)

Although not specifically by name, It was fabulous to have the work being done by Northern Adelaide Councils In pumping water resources back into the Aquifer system recognised by the Executive Director of the Qld Dept. of Water Resources Mining & Energy during one of the several forums, advising other delegates that if they're interested in exploring that possibility they should get over to Adelaide Northern Suburb areas. To see what they're doing in that field and gaining relevant insight.

PHILIP GLYDE CEO MDBA

Acknowledged the sensationalism of reporting, regarding the recent fish kill in Menindee Lakes NSW, noting that they failed mentioning in any article published that the MDBA had actually held water back for the previous two (2) years prior to this incident.

AMONG MANY OTHER ISSUES PRESENTED!!!

Please provide a brief overview of any information you received at the training or conference that may be of assistance to the Council:

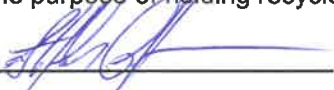
- The Hon David Littleproud MP – Independent assessment of the Social & Economic Conditions I the Murray Darling Basin
- Dept of Agriculture – Eligible Projects Water Efficiency Program
- Australian Cotton – Fact Sheet Australian Cotton Our Water Story
- Cotton Australia – National Policy Priorities
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Southern Spring Flow – Update #2
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Northern Fish Flow
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – A Decade of Water for the Environment
- National Irrigators Council – CEO Report to 2019 AGM
- MDBA – The Murray Darling Basin – Significant Droughts and Rainfall (fact sheet)
- MDBA – About the Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Flora & Fauna of the Murray Darling Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Native Fishes of the Murray Darling Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Frogs of the Murray Darling Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Climate Change, Science & Evaluation (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Water Markets & Trade (fact sheet)
- MDBA – River Murray Allocations, Water Orders & Delivery (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Complying with the Basin Plan (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Water Resource Plan (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Ground Water (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Drought in the Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Northern Basin Projects (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Flows to the Lower Murray Darling Basin (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Science & Knowledge – Modelling (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Blackwater (fact sheet)
- MDBA – The Murray Darling Basin & Water Management (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Sharing River Murray Water (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Cultural Flows (fact sheet)
- MDBA – River Murray Operations (fact sheet)
- MDBA – Explaining mass Fish Deaths (fact sheet)

In light of the training you received, do you believe there are steps that the Council may undertake to advance the Playford Community Vision 2043 and/or the Strategic Plan? If so, please provide further information in detail below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Creation of a Scented Garden within Fremont Park, enabling the Blind and Visually Impaired residents that are obviously unable to enjoy the physical sight of nature, to have an area where they can enjoy attending this type of environment with the different scents being given off by the various plants.

- b. Connection with TSBE or another like minded business networking organisation to interact with the various growers and other businesses in Playford to assist them to continue to grow.
- c. While Toowoomba hold a regular Carnival of Flowers annually, City of Playford can potentially hold, on a regular basis, a Festival of Food, providing the ability of One Tree Hill, Angle Vale and Virginia growers to showcase their produce, with the potential of providing Salisbury, Gawler, Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Light and Adelaide Plains Council growers to also take part.
- d. Possibilities of sourcing a water transportation truck to transport recycled water to residents that may wish to install a tank at their property for the purpose of holding recycled water that can be used when watering their gardens.

Council Member Signature: 

Date: 4-11-19

This form will be made available in the Council Member Training and Conferences Report Register on the Council website.

STAFF USE ONLY

Received by: Aaron Galanti

Date: 4/11/19

Added to the appropriate register: Y/N

