

CM20210511 - Additional Council Meeting - 11 May 2021
Attachments

7.1 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION AGM MOTION - REGION 2.....2

7.1.1 2021 AGM Meeting Motion Region 2 - First Nations Representation in Local
Government.....2

Motion 5.10 FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**Greater Shepparton City Council, Region 2****Recommendation:**

That the Murray Darling Association support a process to promote greater representation of First Nations people in local government and in water policy.

Objective:

To support improved social, economic, environmental, and cultural outcomes in the Murray Darling Basin by supporting First Nations people to have a greater role in the decision making process.

To ensure local knowledge informs our national priorities.

Key Arguments:

- There are 40 Aboriginal nations in the Murray Darling Basin. The value and values of diversity of representation on local government is essential to ensuring better outcomes for a more sustainable Murray Darling Basin.
- Calls for an Indigenous voice have been made for a long time, and local government has a key role in supporting that process.
- In 2017 the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) and, consequent *Final Report* of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in November 2018 considered existing and proposed advisory structures that might inform the design, and that a co-design process should consider national, regional and local elements of The Voice and how they interconnect.¹ The values and vision for local government outlined in MDA's [Strategic Plan Vision 2025](#) aligns with these considerations.
- Local government is that level of government closest to the communities we serve and plays a key role in ensuring local leadership informs our national priorities.
- This motion was proposed by the graduates of the Murray Darling Association Basin Communities Leadership Program held in Cunnamulla in 2021, and has been developed in consultation with and the approval of Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations MLDRIN.
- The Murray Darling Association [Strategic Plan 2020-25 \(Vision 2025\)](#): commits to *"First Nations culture is reflected in and supported by MDA policy and position statements."* (Pillar 3, Ref 3.5.3, Vision 2025).

1

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Former_Committees/Constitutional_Recognition_2018/ConstRecognition/Final_Report/section?id=committees%2freportjnt%2f024213%2f26813