



**A Grass Roots strategy for  
energising the MDA  
from regions to Board**

## **The Basin River Valleys Strategy**

- **A concept to revitalise and empower MDA Regions to become a collective pro-active force within major river valleys by identifying and prioritising issues and working together towards their resolution.**
- **A strategy model has been successfully developed by the combined South Australian regions and we put forward the suggestion that the model can be used in any modified form to suit each major valley as a tool to drive issues in regional, state and Federal Board levels**
- **To support this idea, the regional bodies within the valleys become the collecting point for issues affecting member Councils and corporate bodies.**

## **Operating the model**

- **Each of the valleys would decide say up to 5 key issues in their region relative to the Federal Board agenda. Basin-wide, this would form the main thrust of the Board.**
- **Other issues would be valley specific and would be dealt with at that level and would be supported by Board and various other regions.**
- **Issues purely local within the regions would be dealt with locally, with support when needed and sought could be reinforced across the regions.**

## **Operating the work group model**

- **The model requires total commitment of all members to work with Local Government, Boards and agencies, business and their associations and other private and local groups.**
- **Networking will be essential to ensure positive outcomes.**
- **The Board to give priority focus on essential valley issues and its consideration to apply MDA resources in achieving outcomes.**
- **The working group participates in assisting in research and understanding the issues.**
- **The group will be required to lobby local, state and federal elected members to achieve government response.**
- **Working group portfolio style arrangements need to be in place to ensure ongoing action on issues.**

### **A Regional Working Group model (Based on the present Region 6 model)**

- **The Region 6 Working Group known as the Lower Murray Working Group meets monthly with delegate members of all its 4 constituent Councils and representative expert Council staff in attendance. It calls on expert advice from government and public sources in its investigations.**
- **The Group operates as the Region 6 think tank on a permanent agenda basis with portfolios allotted to various members and passes up completed issues with recommendations for the Region to consider.**
- **Portfolios include water re-use, media and community engagement, political strategy, industry and agriculture, environment and cultural issues.**

### **S.A. Reference Committee of Regions**

- **To ensure a consensus of S.A. positions on water and riparian issues, South Australian regions have set up a reference body where all 4 state regional representatives meet to establish consensus agreement on state MDA issues and general policy , serve the Board and staff when required and if possible to ensure support of issues of our interstate regions.**
- **To act as the representative body of the S.A. Regions along with the General Manager when dealing with State Government Ministers and state and SA federal members.**
- **The regions retain their autonomy and their right to dissent without prejudice.**