

## THE NATIONALS - MURRAY PLAINS AEDC

### President

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## ORDINARY MEETING Sunday 28 August 2022, 11am Lockington Hotel, Lockington

**WELCOME:** President Elaine Lees

**PRESENT:** As per the attendance sheet

**APOLOGIES:** As per the attendance sheet

Moved: Doug Amos

Seconded: Garner Smith

That the apologies be accepted.

*Carried*

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 26 JUNE 2022**

The Minutes of the previous meeting are moved as true and correct

Moved: Karen Kelly

Seconded: Glenys Gillingham

*Carried*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Moved: Damian Kelly

Seconded: David Hackett

That the Treasurer's Report is accepted.

*Carried*

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Inwards:

NAB Bank Statements

2. Outwards:

Previous meeting minutes

Notice of meeting

Invitation to Gaelle Broad to attend AEDC meeting

Letter to Danny O'Brien and Perin Davis regarding 450GB

That the correspondence received accepted and sent endorsed.

Moved: Rob Amos

Seconded: Leigh Wilson

*Carried*

## **REPORTS:**

**President** - Elaine Lees – see attached

**Local State Member** – Peter Walsh MP, Leader of The Nationals, State Member for Murray Plains

Nicholls Election Review:

Some negative campaigning works. We know the members don't like it but this sort of negative campaigning will be happening at times in Mildura and Shepparton at the State election.

11 weeks until people start pre-poll voting.

Import issues from focus groups:

1. Health
2. Cost of living
3. Housing
4. Condition of roads

Coalition talking about shelving suburban rail loop and spending the money on hospitals.

We will continue to talk about health and increasing the number of health professionals.

There will be a planning department review, there are too many roadblocks in the process.

We have a great set of candidates for the upcoming election. We need to win additional seats, but we also need the Liberals to win seats to take government. Questions of PW:

Doug Amos: What is happening with the indigenous treaty? PW No treaty has been signed. The legislation has established an Assembly. This will take 10 to 15 years before any decisions are made.

In the past, Luke O'Sullivan talked against the treaty. Could this cause a division in society? PW Historically the issue has not been handled well. As a society, we need to do better at "closing the gap".

Leigh Wilson: We need to resist listening to the extremes on both sides and find common ground to move forward. We need to maintain a positive attitude. PW We have a responsibility to represent all members of our community.

Garner Smith: A lot of the "closing the gap" issues have not improved.

Kow Swamp, there is a proposal for an OPD (Ongoing Protection Declaration) over Kow Swamp. What can be done about this to understand it better and can anything be done to slow the process? PW There is not enough information at this stage. The three local councils should request more time to allow a more thorough investigation.

Dave Hackett: At Kow Swamp a fence has been erected without consultation. Another overlay has been added without consultation. PW We shouldn't be afraid to argue our points of view on the facts of the issue.

Barry Bishop: Licenced river frontage can be accessed for fishing and hunting now but not camping. The state government wants to add camping to this. PW A Coalition government would repeal the legislation.

Why is the Coalition taking a 50% carbon emission reduction target to the election? PW We need to be seen to be doing something for the electorate, particularly in Melbourne. Leigh Wilson Give the electorate the information and lead the way.

There is a meeting in Swan Hill in the next week or so regarding the Murray Darling Basin Plan. PW Some of these groups are extreme and cannot have their minds changed.

PW: If anyone has any examples of people having trouble with the health system, please let him know.

### **Federal Council Report – Paul Weller**

Federal Conference, 55 resolutions, many policies just reaffirmed, including the 450GB not being taken.

The conference did not make it through all the resolutions.

Paul Weller ran for the VP but was not successful.

There is still some disunity in the party, but it is getting better. Victoria and Queensland still have a lot of differences.

**Special Guests** – Candidate for Northern Victoria – Gaelle Broad,

Thanks for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

What's happening? The Upper House campaign is different to the Lower House.

Social Media Campaign has started.

Attending many different activities across the region. A lot is going on.

Will be ramping things up over the next few months.

Have been supporting other candidates with their campaigns.

It is very important that our branch members start talking about the good work our party does.

We need to remain positive and fight. Be encouraged and help spread the word.

Paul Weller to Peter Walsh: We need to ensure the Liberals hold and increase their vote on the southern part of the region.

Garner Smith: What reception have you had in the non-National Party areas? GB Sometimes there is confusion about what the Upper House is. We need to have the attitude that we are ready for government.

**Fundraising Report** – Leigh Wilson

It will take around 4 weeks to organise an event. Looking at 2 – 3 “BBQ” fundraising type events hopefully raising around \$3K to \$4K each.

It will take around 5 – 6 weeks to organise an event to raise a larger amount of money, possibly \$7K to \$10K.

Should we be doing a direct fundraising campaign to businesses writing a letter asking for money?

Peter Walsh – There is an event being held on the 8th October at John and Noelene Smith's house in Gunbower.

Peter Walsh – We need to organise a campaign committee meeting, say Friday 9th September at 2 pm in his office. This needs to be confirmed.

**State President** – Neil Pankhurst - Apology

**State Council:** Elaine Lees – Nil, no meeting

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Write a letter to Hon Steph Ryan thanking her for her service to the National Party and the people of Victoria for her service over the last 8 years.

Moved: Leigh Wilson

Seconded: Judy Sims

*Carried*

Congratulations to Murray and Fairley McDonald on their 57th wedding anniversary.

**Date and Venue for Next meeting:**

AGM To be advised – Sunday 23rd October 2022 venue to be confirmed.

**MEETING CLOSED:** 12.45pm

**See below for reports:**

## **Presidents Report - Murray Plains AEDC Quarterly Meeting Sun August 28<sup>th</sup>.**

### **11.00am, Lockington**

In the two months since our previous Murray Plains AEDC quarterly meeting in the Balcony room at the Murray Downs Golf Club where we had the added spectacle of the Murray Downs Golf Tournament, with some of the would-be participants choosing to honour us with their presence rather than demonstrate their golfing skills. We have luxuriant crops and pasture resulting from another damp winter and we can feel and see the beginning of another beautiful spring ahead of us. I have just driven back from Qld down the Newell Highway, and it is an absolute sea of yellow canola and green cereal crops, plus the flowering wattle. Just spare a thought for the many farmers between Forbes and West Wyalong, inundated by water. It was also again impressive to see the activity on the inland rail project, with a huge amount of activity from Narrabri to Moree.

Following the busy time in May with the Federal Election and State Conference, the last couple of months have seen our state party leaders and members actively preparing for the all-important upcoming state election. It was with sadness we received the news of Steph Ryan's retirement from her position as the State Member for Euroa, and consequently State Deputy Leader. Steph commenced her political career as a staffer for the then member for Rodney, Paul Weller. I believe Paul was instrumental in encouraging her to stand as a candidate, and we have greatly benefited from her contribution. I remember listening to Steph on the ABC on Jon Faine's morning program, where she alternated weekly with the ALP's Jane Garrett. Steph's responses were excellent, and she was well respected by both the listeners and the program's left-leaning host. We wish her well, and I think should communicate to her our best wishes on behalf of our Murray Plains AEDC.

There has not been a State Council meeting since our last quarterly meeting, the next being scheduled for mid-October, however, our State leaders, Peter and Neil, and also Vice President candidate, Paul, recently attended Federal Council in Canberra a couple of weekends ago. Unfortunately, the campaign for Paul to replace Neil as Vice President was not successful, and he was defeated by the younger South Australian candidate, John Pietch. I have asked Paul to give his report at this meeting.

Nicholls FEDC held a post-election general lunch meeting at the Shepparton Italian Social Club on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Leigh Wilson was appointed alternate State Council delegate for Nicholls FEDC, to replace Peter Ryan, who was appointed to a position as a 66a delegate. Newly elected Nicholls member, Sam Birrell addressed the meeting and spoke about his Canberra orientation. He has been appointed the Nationals Deputy Whip, following on from Damian Drum's role as Whip. Sam Birrell, made his maiden speech to Parliament on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and it was excellent. It made me very proud to have him representing us. I recommend watching it, if still available on the parliamentary website. Senator Bridget McKenzie also addressed the meeting and said it was good that leader David Littleproud has included both Michael McCormick and Barnaby Joyce in the shadow cabinet. Foot & Mouth Disease concerns were a particular point of discussion, with Former State Member & Vet Bill Sykes concerned about the lack of preparedness with qualified people on the ground, he also said that product imports containing meat were of greater concern than even the travellers, as he also said in his recent Weekly Times article.

Following the departure of the politicians, Bill Sykes hosted an open discussion on feedback from our experiences at pre-poll and polling day, and he added input regarding the Indi campaign. The aim was to Identify what we did well, and it's never too early to start.

1. Pre-poll team & how-to-vote cards, excellent, good support from Bridget's team
2. The electoral team (Brendan) was a big help, good putting up bunting, & good support from Bridget's team

3. HTV cards too glossy and expensive' need to be in languages other than English in Shepparton
4. Effectiveness of letterboxing queried, postie member commented 25% remain in the letterbox
5. Social Media Like & Share, need to expand significantly, respond with positive comments,
6. Press, Riv Herald Wrap around Riverine Herald day before election excellent
7. Outdated Membership lists issue
8. Need narrative re' what the National Party stands for, the record doesn't matter,
9. Younger supporters fundraiser at Rochester, attended by 50s-60s, not under 35's
10. Need local people on polling booths
11. 7.8% informal (usually 3-4%) (independent no preferences)
12. Nats supporters are not as keen to show colours compared to Independents (Emotional factor)
13. Challenge negative H/O comments re independent, generally aim to run a positive campaign,
14. How did independent get large volunteer support,(A lot of ALP members) & fundraise,
15. We can get organised earlier on signage and use buildings & containers like independent

On my way home this week, we visited my daughter in Griffith, she was invited to attend the Daily Telegraph Bush Summit 2022 being held in Griffith on Friday, with an impressive list of speakers, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister for Environment & Water, Tanya Plibersek, Agriculture Minister, Murray Watt, Local Member for Farrer, Susan Lea, NSW State Premier, Dominic Perrottet, former NSW Premier, Head of Enterprise, Business & Institution, at Optus, Gladys Berejecklin. NFF President, Fiona Simpson among others including local community leaders. Catherine observed the visiting speakers in contrast to the local speakers, tended to be committed to attending and presenting their pre-written speeches rather than communicate & consult with the local communities. Tanya Plibersek in particular, focused on outlying western region towns, being excited about the water flowing in the Darling & Mouth of the Murray. She referred to John Howard being the instigator of the Murray Darling Plan, and that she is committed to "recovering" the extra 450gl for the environment, but when challenged by those present, would not say where it would come from. She was also challenged by local rice growers about the huge demands on water by permanent plantings, whereas rice growers only grow rice when seasons & water supply permit. He said don't treat Australian Rivers like European Rivers, which they are not, there is lots of good in Ag at present, so why destroy it for perceived perfection?

We now need to look forward as we prepare for the Victorian State Election. We need to work towards the result we need for the well-being of the whole state, and especially our regional areas. We really do have excellent candidates and will support our parliamentary team in every way possible. We also need to plan for some fundraising and Leigh will speak about this in his report.

Elaine Lees  
 Murray Plains AEDC President  
 28/08/2022

Attending	Apologies
Robert Amos	Tori Ficarra
Peter Walsh	Wendy Sims
Gaelle Broad	Noel & Dorothy Maughan
Doug Cowan	Stuart Simms
Damian and Karen Kelly	Jack Norris
Leigh Wilson	Murray Marke
Dave Hackett	Inger Amos
Barry and Brenda Bishop	Marie Schlemme
John Lyle	Robert and Lorraine Mitchell
Glenys Gillingham	Noel and Lyn Mitchell
Frank and Claire Miller	Neil Pankhurst
Fairley and Murray McDonald	Kerrie Bruce
Douglas Amos	Ron and Joy Hooper
Elaine Lees	Margot O'Bree
Paul Weller	Steve and Nadine Clarke
Judy Simms	Rachael McAsey
Kathie and Ian Madison	David Lees
Garner Smith	Tim Hawker
Jan Hackett	
John and Mona Hewlett	
John Holder	