

MDBA on the move

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has announced it is opening three new offices to increase its regional presence and links with basin communities.

While Sunraysia was one of nine areas considered for a new office site, our region was not selected in the final process.

MDBA Chief Executive Phillip Glyde said the authority would relocate about 10 per cent of its 300 employees to Toowoomba, Albury-Wodonga and Adelaide within two years.

"Our regionalised approach will be good for basin communities – not just those centres we're establishing in," Mr Glyde said.

"Regionally based staff will help us improve information exchange between communities and the MDBA, strengthen our policy and program decisions through better consideration of local impacts, and give communities a better understanding of the MDBA's work."

Mr Glyde said the regionalisation process would be managed through voluntary relocation of current staff.

NFF calls for repeal of Record My Hours app

The Fair Work Ombudsman has released a new phone app, which the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) argues will undermine trust between employers and employees.

The Record My Hours app uses geofencing technology to register when an employee arrives at work and when they leave, and has an in-built camera feature to help them build an evidence case against their employers.

NFF Chief Executive Tony Mahar has called for the app to be withdrawn pending consultation with agricultural businesses.

Mr Mahar said while employees were consulted during the app's development, employers were not.

"There are plenty of 'working-hours' apps already available that do not use electronic surveillance without employer consent," he said.

"While we support the Fair Work Ombudsman's role in ensuring compliance with workplace laws, this needs to be done in a way that encourages productive workplaces, not undermines them."



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