

**Submission
No 40**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Organisation: Griffith Business Chamber

Date received: 11 August 2016

Griffith Business Chamber's vision is to support, generate & facilitate the growth of a strong business sector. To retain and create employment, regenerate pride & a positive profile within the community since 1953. • We actively work towards the higher objective to allow Griffith to grow & prosper. Which in return, helps the wider community not just the business community. • Provide a strong collective voice to represent the interest of businesses to all levels of government, about important issues that directly and indirectly affect your business. We are right amongst issues affecting businesses and are strong leaders behind them. Such as water, health, employment, education and more. We have been actively engaged and wholeheartedly support the Submissions to this inquiry by Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Food and Fibre. We would like to add a point that we see as vital and seems to often be overlooked when Water is discussed ; That is farmers ultimately have alternatives albeit not good ones to get out and trade water instead of growing produce. It is these food, fibre crops and livestock that drives our purpose built economy. The Businesses heavily invested in our regions who are by far the biggest employers have no options when productive water is stripped from there economy. Consideration, representation, communication or compensation to businesses in NSW Basin Communities has been virtually non existent. We ask that the triple bottom line - Social, Economic and Endvronment = PEOPLE,PLANET & PROFIT were given truly balanced recognition. We also ask the Honorable members of this Committee investigate what was recently highlighted on page 26 of the Draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan by NSW Planning & Environment termed as "Restoring the Balance in the Murray Darling Basin Programe" where a further 3.1 billion dollar Buy-Back of stripping productive water by NSW State Goverment was documented.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Pierotti on behalf of Griffith Business Chamber.