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**From:** John Brigden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 April 2014 4:37 AM  
**To:** State Water Submissions  
**Cc:** kevin.anderson@parliament.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** Cost of irrigation in the Peel Valley

Dear Sir / Madam.

I make this submission in the belief that the people or person who sit in judgement in this matter will never read this submission or consider it a worthy complaint, but I will give it a go anyway.

We have experienced " public and community consultation" many times before.

We run a small mixed farming operation in the lower reaches of the Peel Valley which includes the growing of food and fodder crops, some under irrigation.

Over past years we have lost a great proportion of our water license to a "Water Sharing Plan" the Murray Darling Basin Plan and a need for the expansion of Chaffey dam.

We were already "sharing" our water as 90 to 95% of the water that flows down the Peel ends up in the Namoi River just below our farm.

My next door neighbour down stream in the Namoi obtains his water at a cost of some 50% less than we pay. When most crops require some 4 to 6 megaliters per hectare you might like to work how much less his 100 hectare crop is costing him. The irony is we both sell the same commodity to the same market. Good luck to him I hear you say.

I believe the cost of water diminishes even more, the further the water flows into other systems.

We do not receive our water from any other river system or source as the Peel is, as I assume you would be aware, is at the top of the system but we have to give most of it away.

We use our water as efficiently as we can and have spent many dollars in upgrading our irrigation systems to achieve the best use of each liter, but the cost of the water is rapidly pushing us out of the market.

It continues to astound me why there is such a huge differential in the cost of water between the valleys in the same system. It certainly makes us less competitive in the market place for the same product grown. Why does this cost variation exist when we are now all part of the great Murray Darling basin Plan, surely we should all be paying the same rate for water extracted from whatever river it is in the system. The answer is I have no doubt that it may not be politically comfortable.

Unless something is done to establish some equality in pricing the irrigation industry in the Peel will die. Bad luck I hear you say !

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, you hear me say.

If you hear a slight thumping noise in the background whilst reading this letter it is me bashing my head against the wall in frustration.

Regards, John Brigden.