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*Dear Mr Windsor, my name Dick Hopley, I'm 40 yrs old and I live on the beautiful Tweed coast of NSW. I moved up here 5 1/2 yrs ago from Orange where I was a partner in my parents transport business. I was watching the news last night and was glad to see that you are involved in the Murray/Darling basin plan, but Mr Windsor I hope and pray that you get it right. When I was involved in my parent business, we used to cart all types of general freight from Sydney and Newcastle to regions west of Orange, to Parkes, Forbes, Dubbo and we would serve Cobar, Wilcannia and Broken Hill four times a week. With our business Mr Windsor it always flourished when we had rain, and I have never been able to understand why we aren't harnessing more of what falls from the skies? You of all people would be well aware of the amount of rain that falls east of the Divide and how it then runs out into the sea, what a waste, and let's not forget the wet season up north. It seems that all major capitals are into building desalination plants and are a huge cost both financially and environmentally on the economy. I travel frequently from Brisbane to Adelaide via Moree, Collarenebri, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Cobar, Wilcannia, Broken Hill. Give these areas water=growth=employment=prosperity, for rural communities and families. Maybe if there was more stability in these areas, there would also be more family farms being passed on to the next generation, and more incentives for the black fellas to improve their lifestyles through employment in these areas, and this can have a follow on affect through their own people. But this won't happen overnight, but it can be started! Australia is riding on a high of the mining boom and probably for some time to come, and yet we are capable of producing the world's growing requirements from Australian farmers, just like you Mr Windsor. So why aren't we strengthening our agriculture industry? Agriculture should be one of our top industries to the world, for now and the future. And helping the farmers that are just good at farming, and not by strengthening the huge agri businesses that can just wipe out the smaller producer. Cause the smaller bloke usually supports the smaller bloke! We used to carry freight for Tandou out at Menindee, from chemicals to parts for the farm from their suppliers from over NSW, and when they had cotton we would cart cotton samples back, and one thing that I found interesting was the fact that they had about 5000ks of underground irrigation for their cotton. No flooding, minimal evaporation! But I'm probably telling you something that you're an expert in? Can this be used in other areas of cropping and would the government assist farmers in helping set up? And what if we were able to make more water available to farmers, through redirection of water to catchment areas. Can storage volumes be improved? Just an idea? Hope I haven't rambled on too much about myself, just like you to understand where my ideas come from. I haven't much computer experience, hence the lack of paragraphs. Thanks for your time Mr Windsor, kind regards Dick Hopley.*