

From: [Paul Pierotti](#)
To: [Committee, Murray Darling Basin Plan \(SEN\)](#); [Brockman, Slade \(Senator\)](#)
Cc: [Patrick, Rex \(Private\)](#); [Davey, Perin \(Senator\)](#); [Gallacher, Alex \(Senator\)](#); [Hanson-Young, Sarah \(Senator\)](#); [O'Neill, Deborah \(Senator\)](#)
Subject: Evidence before the Select Committee on the Multi-Jurisdictional Management and Execution of the Murray Darling Basin Plan
Date: Monday, 13 July 2020 4:27:24 PM

Senator Brockman,

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (M.I) made a submission on 25/02/20 regarding my comments (Paul Pierotti Water Spokesperson for Griffith Business Chamber) at Griffith Hearing 11/12/19 to the *Select Committee on the Multi-Jurisdictional Management and Execution of the Murray Darling Basin Plan*.

I respectfully request that the record be corrected in relation to these matters.

Much of what M.I are stating as Incorrect or misleading is actually nit picking and they have not proved any incorrect or misleading statements, their use of jargon and quite trivial additional information that does NOT prove anything false, incorrect or misleading.

Point 1 – *Incorrect and misleading comments about value* – This was transcribed as Billions of dollars and I meant Millions of Dollars.

Point 2 – *Incorrect statements about funding arrangements and staff* – M.I. have only added additional detail and have not proven anything that I have said as incorrect.

Point 3 – *Incorrect and misleading statements about Delivery Entitlements (D.E)*. – M.I absolutely did create more D.E's and threatened reliability of supply and flow rates if farmers did not take on more De's and pay for them annually in perpetuity – so claiming this is “issuing and not selling” is in fact M.I being incorrect and misleading.

Point 4 – *Incorrect allegations on insider water trading* – Nothing M.I have said on this proves non-insider trading and I stand by what I have said, they have stated their private water account currently holds around \$51 million in cash.

Point 5 – *Untrue assertions about trading practices* - Nothing M.I have said on this proves M.I are not affect market prices and I stand by what I have said, their current tradable water holding in that private fund is around \$150, million dollars and their internal knowledge of other confidential trades creates an unfair advantage which I deem as insider trading and affecting market prices.

Point 6 – *False and misleading claims about Northern Branch canal* – M.I did upgrade the Northern Branch canal with PIOP funding in order to deliver more water outside of the system – expanding the irrigation region.

M.I had a basic obligation to consult **with all customers in the M.I.A** for expanding this irrigation region and only met with a few customers on the Northern Branch who also claim that the meeting was a foregone presentation not consultation.

Point 7 – *False statement about shutting down of system forcing Griffith Council to use Lake Wyangan* - – Nothing M.I have said on this proves that they did not cause the significant issue

with suspect drinking water and I stand by what I have said.

Point 8 – *False and misleading info about fees and advocacy* – M.I charges a 9 cent per megalitre levy which is obviously a fee for advocacy and M.I does purport to represent the community as until recently a member of NSW Irrigators and National Irrigators Council.

Point 9 – *False and misleading info about my customer issues with MI* – M.I did not inform my user group of a water over drawer and then in a statement some months later demanded that we repay.

We asked for detail, invoice or any other info on this alleged overdraw without any appropriate correspondence for months and only after a phone meeting with then employee [redacted] an agreement was made that if we immediately pay back the alleged overdrawn water (record high temporary water price June 2019) that administration penalty would be waived.

Our water user group paid back the water and M.I did not waive all admin penalties as agreed and blamed the ex-employee and stated there was nothing they could do and forced us to pay.

Could you please communicate these corrections to the rest of the Committee at the next hearing or other earlier opportunity.

I would be happy to assist the Committee in relation to these or any other matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Pierotti

