

ATTENTION - HOUSE OF REPS. COMMITTEE ON
REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.

SUBMISSION FOR THE MURRAY DARLING

Submission No: 342

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Secretary: SC

What has been overlooked in the Murray Darling irrigation area discussions are the importance of the soils. Healthy soils go hand in hand with our limited supply of water.

The calcium and magnesium percentages if corrected show a 10 to 20 percent increase in water efficiencies. Thinking outside the square if you put somewhere between 10 to 20 percent of water back to the environment without affecting the productivity of the irrigation areas, what a result for rural Australia and every Australian.

I have spent the last 30 years working with these soils and the results can be without doubt duplicated in the MacQuarie Lachlan Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers.

Six years ago i sold my business Hazelton Groundspread which from a humble start the business went on to become the largest lime spreading contractor in NSW. The key to our success was to spread lime evenly as spreading too much in the spread pattern can be detrimental. I cannot stress how important this is. This is the reason for the varying results in the bulk of the trial work that has been done.

To achieve these results we added 8 percent moisture to the lime on a purpose built conveyor, this gave a consistent product with minimum dust. The spreading was done with modified spinners of our design giving double overlap behind the spreader.

I can organise the farmers, agronomists and the science to show you the results of what has been achieved. My humble opinion is that every avenue must be looked at, we can do things better and maybe have a win, win situation.

This is a short submission as I have been flooded out losing my new lucerne stand plus have had water all over the lucerne flats. I am also trying to harvest wheat but getting bogged which is a nightmare.

Richard Hazelton