



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

## MEDIA RELEASE

### New parliamentary inquiry into floodplain harvesting

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 July 2021

A new Upper House committee has been established to inquire into floodplain harvesting in New South Wales. The committee was established following significant debate on the issue in both the community and Parliament.

Through this inquiry, the committee will examine: the legality of floodplain harvesting practices; the water regulations that were gazetted on 30 April 2021; as well as how floodplain harvesting can be licensed, regulated, metered and monitored so that it is sustainable and meets the objectives of the *Water Management Act 2000* and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Chair of the Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting, Ms Cate Faehrmann said: "The Legislative Council has rejected three attempts to legalise or regulate floodplain harvesting. This is because the genuine and serious concerns of downstream communities and water scientists have never been properly addressed. At this stage we are not even certain of the legality of floodplain harvesting. This inquiry will provide a forum for all to air their unresolved questions and concerns, and an opportunity to debate the issue under the public spotlight."

Ms Faehrmann added, "We would like all views and options put on the table so a sensible way forward can be identified. The committee therefore encourages all interested members of the public to make a submission to have their voices heard on the matter."

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is 13 August 2021 with public hearings to begin in September. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC on 02 9230 3771.*