INQUIRY INTO IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT (GENERAL) AMENDMENT (EXEMPTIONS FOR FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING) REGULATION 2020

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Monday 1st June 2020

RE: Water Management (General) Amendment (Exemptions for Floodplain Harvesting) Regulation 2020 – Individual Submission

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to form part of my submission regarding the Exemptions for Floodplain Harvesting Regulation 2020. I request it be accepted for submission with the period for the online questionnaire having now closed.

As a resident of Dubbo and citizen of NSW it is my hope that this regulation be repealed. This amendment came into effect in February 2020 giving retrospective approval to unregulated (and illegal) floodplain harvesting works that are depriving the river systems of critical natural flows during flooding events. This regulation was hastily prepared with legally weak wording and gives legality to floodplain structures that have never been approved. These structures should instead be required to be removed and not given legal exemptions. The definition of eligible structures should be changed to only those having been given approval.

Floodplain harvesting has greatly impacted on communities within the Murray Darling Basin and these impacts should be assessed. Depriving communities and the environment of precious water for large irrigators is an injustice that must be addressed.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Duggan