

**Submission
No 6**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Ms Fiona Baker

Date Received: 12 July 2021

Dear Committee Members

Please consider my submission to save our hundred years old river red gums. Greedy cotton irrigators are stealing their water with flood plain harvesting and leaving them to die. When the trees die, so do our threatened Superb Parrots and other unique native flora and fauna. As a child I listened to 98 years old Nellie Jenkins tell me the story of how, during the 1901 drought, her husband took the stock droving on the stock route, for months at a time, leaving her alone with the milking cows and her horse. She was told "there's a little emergency money in the bank, but you mustn't spend it on fodder. We'll need it to buy more stock to begin again after the drought." Nellie watched the grass all die, then the hay all go too. What was she to do? Shoot her beloved horse and cows? Or spend the money? She did neither. She climbed the ancient river red gums in her long skirts and petticoats and using a saw, cut some branches for the animals to keep them alive until finally the drought broke and her husband returned. Those trees are precious. There's hundreds of kilometres of dying trees along our rivers. It's not worth a few export bucks. Once they go, those trees are gone forever! Nature is unable to represent itself. It has intrinsic value other than as a money making entity. It's what makes Australia our beautiful and precious home. The trees along our rivers cool the air, land and water and provide shelter to other creatures in our Australian environment. Instead of trashing our countryside with monoculture cotton crops we need to preserve it for the future, our descendent and for visitors to come and see. Please insist on fair water distribution.

Thank you for your time,
Fiona Baker