

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 July 2021

Partially
Confidential

Floodplain Harvesting Inquiry: Submission

In relation to 1(a): Floodplain harvesting has found to be illegal, there are multiple news and research articles into this. It is my understanding that the government has been given previous advice effective to the illegality of this.

In relation to 1(c): If the government is insistent on going to forthwith with floodplain harvesting practices then the government must insist that any water that goes out of a dam must be metered and monitored. The current illegal practices that are being used by farmers that engage in floodplain water harvesting are creating an unsustainable environment downstream. The unsustainable environment has included significant drops in water levels and massive fish kills. Both of these issues have been widely publicised in both independent and mainstream media.

It is my suggestion that the government and those partaking in this inquiry read up on views from environmentalists and those who are being affected by the illegal practice of floodplain harvesting. I also believe that there has not been significant and thorough investigation into the effects of floodplain harvesting in relation to the health of those who live in the region. There have been media reports into a significant increase in motor neuron disease which potentially could be connected to the consumption of contaminated river water. It is my belief that the contaminated water is only occurring due to a significant decrease in water flow down the river.

It is my belief that the Murray Darling Basin Plan in its current state does not work. I do not believe that corporations that do not farm on the river should have access to the ability to buy and sell water licences.