

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Organisation: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

Monday, 9th August 2021

Chair, NSW Legislative Council Select Committee

Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting

floodplainharvesting@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Lodged online

Re: Submission into Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting

Dear Chair,

We are broadacre and irrigation farmers located in the Macquarie Valley in the states Central West.

We support the need to regulate floodplain harvesting. However it must include a rainfall exemption.

Throughout this whole process we have been more than willing to participate, this has included but not limited to:

- My farm details were checked, including my existing approvals to ensure I meet the eligibility criteria.
- I have opened my farm to multiple inspections by project staff and by NRAR to inspect, map and record all my farm infrastructure.
- My farm has been surveyed by LiDAR to measure my storages and levees. This was cross checked against my own on-ground surveys at my own cost.
- My farm has been checked by aerial photographs and satellites for changes in infrastructure as well as cropping records at each of the key dates.
- I have received my individual farm water balance produced from the model, I provided detailed submission on this again using data to help calibrate the model.
- Multiple consultations over multiple years

We support in principle rules which ensure future access remains within long-term legal limits but balances the highly variable nature of overland flows in northern ephemeral systems, which only occur when our rivers are full and spilling and water is most abundant. Using averages in this way must allow for peak use at these rare times when we are in flood, to provide our region and its economy the opportunity to access water to store it for future use, when it is most abundant

Our business cannot wait years for you to sort out new rules or add targets. It will impact our businesses recovery from the drought and likely make us less prepared for the next one if this continues

The rainfall runoff regulation clearly enabled me to continue that historical practice without the need for excessive regulation or cost. The rainfall runoff regulation would have provided me the ongoing certainty around how to operate my farm without impacting legal limits, as it's a small volume of water.

Please lets get this sorted

Kind Regards