

**Submission
No 45**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Organisation: National Farmers' Federation (NFF)

Date Received: 12 August 2021



13 August 2021

Committee Secretary
Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting
NSW Legislative Council
Via email: floodplainharvesting@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: NFF submission to the NSW Floodplain Harvesting

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) provides the following submission to the NSW Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting.

The NFF is the peak national body representing farmers and, more broadly, agriculture across Australia. On matters related to water, the NFF is the only national body that brings a 100 per cent farmer-focused viewpoint and represent the interests of farmers that are affected by water management decisions including irrigators, riparian and floodplain landholders and stock and domestic users.

We thank the Committee for their invitation to provide a submission to the inquiry. We note this is a state issue. A number of our members, including NSW Farmers' Association and NSW Irrigators' Council are engaging in this issue and we commend their submissions to the Committee.

However, the NFF provides the following high-level comments:

- NFF supports the metering of all significant water use, including floodplain harvesting. We note that stock and domestic water use should be assessed through deeming, not metering, as is the practice.
- All water take should be compliant with relevant rules and regulations, including the Cap on total water use;
- NFF supports greater transparency in water use — the public and communities should be able to access and verify the quantity of water that has been accessed and how it has been used; and
- The newly appointed Inspector-General of Water Compliance and passage of the Commonwealth *Water Legislation Amendment (Inspector-General of Water Compliance and Other Measures) Act 2021* will complement existing state compliance frameworks to improve confidence and enable breaches of compliance to be proportionally addressed.

Yours sincerely

TONY MAHAR
Chief Executive Officer