

**Submission
No 76**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Cr Ron Campbell

Date Received: 13 August 2021

Our Reference:

Contact Name:

Cate Faehrmann MLC
Chair, Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting
Upper House Committees | Legislative Council | Parliament of New South Wales

Emailed: floodplainharvesting@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Friday 13 August 2021

RE: NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Dear Ms Faehrmann,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in response to the abovementioned inquiry. It is understood that the terms of reference for this inquiry are as follows;

1. That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on the Government's management of floodplain harvesting, including:
 - (a) the legality of floodplain harvesting practices,
 - (b) the water regulations published on 30 April 2021
 - (c) how floodplain harvesting can be licensed, regulated, metered and monitored so that it is sustainable and meets the objectives of the *Water Management Act 2000* and the Murray- Darling Basin Plan and,
 - (d) any other related matter.

Please find following Council's comments on these matters.

General Legislative Intent:

Council is generally supportive of the legislative framework as presented. It is considered that the Regulation will provide greater certainty to both the agricultural industry and local communities. It should be acknowledged that the practice of flood plain harvesting is commonplace within the Narrabri Region, and has been undertaken for a considerable period of time. As such, it is considered to be embedded in local agricultural practices and is therefore accepted.

It should be acknowledged that the storing of floodwater within our Region is a very small proportion of a total flood across the landscape, and such floodplain harvesting actions only occur intermittently. Local Farmers are also considered highly adept at navigating the current water licensing system and are inherently familiar with such principles.




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Regulatory certainty is considered essential to ensure communities such as Narrabri can continue to thrive and prosper. The recent prolonged drought created considerable stress on local communities at all levels and our community is slowly recovering. Consequently, Council is not supportive of any amendment to the current regulatory framework, that would create further undue stress, both financially or socially, to our local community and agricultural producers.

Agricultural producers are looking to meter and regulate floodplain harvesting. This is as expected from this sector, a commonsense approach that will dispel the myths around the quantities of water captured in this way. And furthermore, allow quality data to be gathered to continue the current world's best practice in water management.

If you require any further information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please contact myself on _____ or _____

Kind Regards,

Cr Ron Campbell
Mayor



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