

**Submission  
No 77**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Mr Robert Mclellan

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# **Submission to NSW Parliament Legislative Council Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting**

## **Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into floodplain harvesting.

I run a Sheep and Cattle Marsh grazing business along with my family. and have lived in the Macquarie Marshes all my life along with generations of my family before me, I have witnessed the decline of the marshes over the years as irrigation in this valley has grown, well past what I believe to be sustainable. and feel this is well known and the reason the original basin plan was developed.

I am a member on the Macquarie Cudgegong EWAG, I have sat on this committee and witnessed the difficulty we have meeting environmental objectives with the little amount of water that is available any further decline in flows to the Marshes would be greatly detrimental to the marshes.

I am total opposed to Flood Plain Harvesting it has been an illegal practice for decades with no access licence or any other Licence it has never been metered or measured. This water has been taken from other law-abiding downstream users as well as the environment. Now to be made legal, giving out licences as well as trade provisions this is ludicrous not to mention carryover. Rewarding greed.

### **The legality of floodplain harvesting practices**

The fact that this practice is only just being licenced, says that it was an illegal practice. a lot of the Flood Plain Harvest structures were built without approval illegally. Without approval the building of these structures would have had no consideration of downstream impacts.

Flood Plain Harvest licenses should not be granted and if they are they must not exceed the Murray-Darling Basin Cap

### **The water regulations published on 30 April 2021**

I support that all flood plain harvest take be metered and object to the exemptions of rain runoff over the 10% harvestable right. All water in our rivers once was runoff.

Flood Plain Harvest works should not be exempt from a works approval like all other water extraction need.

I strongly disagree with the modelling used in the Macquarie to base the floodplain extraction.

**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,**

I don't believe this is possible, but my comments are.

Licences would have to be temporary so that It could have a one strike and your out policy, on water theft and metering

Licenses should not be able to be traded temporary or permanent. Trade of these licences would greatly increase the historic take of this water source, as the amount of take is unknown as it has not been metered or licensed in the past. It has only been capped by storage capacity. the capacity will be increased with trade.

There would have to be strict deadlines on removal of illegal flood plain harvesting structures.

There should be No 500% carryover with annual accounting, with a more varying climate this will lead to dryer floodplain, creeks, and rivers, for longer periods this would be unacceptable considering not so distant past of river dyeing, fish kills, and communities left without water.

There would have to be end of system flows targets put in place. Amount of water past certain point before any Flood plain Harvest extraction. as well as flood plain health monitoring to ensure no further damage is being caused.

Runoff captured by fields would have to included in extraction volumes as all Floodplain Harvest water was runoff. same rules for everyone .

Yours faithfully

Robert Mclellan