

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Geoff Davies and Fiona Lander

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By email to: floodplainharvesting@parliament.nsw.gov.au

FLOOD PLAIN HARVESTING INQUIRY

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission to this inquiry on FPH. As 3rd generation landholders downstream of Tilpa we are to be directly affected by the potential take from the FPH and we hope that with this inquiry into the FPH we have the opportunity to highlight decisions that include not just irrigators but all communities that live and work along the Darling River.

There is only one source of water and if more of it is to be taken from upstream in the form of Flood Plain Harvesting than the environment, culture and communities downstream will bear the brunt of this diminished resource. This has been well documented with the current take for irrigation purposes within the Murray Darling Basin.

FPH has the ability to completely disrupt the connectivity of the river, management of the flows must allow water to reach all aspects of the Basin. With drought an ever present feature of the Basin, connectivity between valley's and rivers is important as climate change impacts on the environment, culture and communities.

If some form FPH is to occur we believe it must incorporate the following points:

- Any granting of FPH take must be under the established 93/94Cap and there must not be growth above this Cap.
- Historic flows must not be accommodated through SDL's
- Whatever FPH licencing occurs must address the illegal FPH infrastructure works (including modifications).
- The most recent climate modelling must be used and be fit for purpose for the next 10 years to accommodate climate change.
- The downstream flow targets of environmental, cultural and basic landholder needs must be met.
- Compliance must be met for the priority of water use principles as set out in the NSW *Water Management Act 200*
- Any proposed licences must be subject to review for at least 20 years where adjustments can be made to reflect and incorporate new science and data. This must occur with no compensation to the licence holder and FPH licences in general must not be open to compensation for future restrictions or changes.

- All FPH works must be fitted with compliant metering and cannot operate without the metering being monitored.
- Upstream WRP's must include all downstream FPH and FPH can only commence when end-of-valley flow targets have been met.
- FPH licences cannot be tradeable

Yours Sincerely

Geoff Davies and Fiona Lander