

**Submission
No 93**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

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Until recently I was only vaguely aware of the issues surrounding the Murray-Darling Basin. I try to keep up to date with news and current affairs, so its concerning to me that such a major part of the NSW agriculture, industry, and ecosystem has not been covered to the extent it should have been.

I have never experienced the effects if a water shortage personally. The water that comes from my taps has always been clear and consistent. Its not something I've ever had to think about beyond how long my showers are and whether or not I can use a sprinkler in summer. Why is that not universal for all Australians? I don't pay a premium to get cleaner water, and yet regional Australians might pay the same water rate and get water infected with blue algae instead. Why should we ignore them just because they are remote? They are the foundation of our food security, and the river systems they rely on to grow that food are drying up because northern based farmers and foreign industries are illegally storing water using flood plane harvesting. And its a travesty that the government has acknowledged both its illegality, and that they have not policed and punished the perpetrators. They are stealing. It is theft. Flood plane harvesting is illegal. Just because the government parties or certain organisations are pushing for it to be legal does not mean it should be, or that the people committing this crime right now dont deserve punishment.

Marijuana is illegal - lots of people want it legalised, and there are many groups that push for it. But right now, someone caught dealing pot, or growing out of their garage, is still going to be arrested. Why isn't it the same for those who are ILLEGALLY flood plane harvesting?

We need water to survive. It should not be just another asset used for export or to extort more money out of the highest bidder. Southern NSW and Victoria need water from the Murray-Darling Basin and we're not getting it.

Whosoever brings flood plane harvesting to heel has my vote.

Please fix this travesty.