

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Mr Robert Maxwell

Date Received: 13 July 2021

My concern in this submission is that all attention is being given to the volumes of water that might be licenced for floodplain harvesting and very little is being done to consider the structures into which this water will be stored.

The licencing of the farm dams for storage of legally harvested water needs as much attention as the volumes that this committee will look to recommend.

At present farm dams are a disgrace as places where valuable irrigation water is stored. They are shallow, they leak, they evaporate and I doubt they can be properly drained for use on a crop. This means that up to 70% of harvested volumes could be lost before it is used in productive agriculture.

My submission is that all structures used to store water should be licenced to a set of standards and not just because they were there and built before 2008.

Storage farm dams should only be licenced if they had a depth of say 10 meters, not the prevailing standard 4 meters. Secondly they should be easily drained. This would involve the construction of internal lined trenches that would allow all water to run back to a drain point.

I am hoping that the committee will give serious consideration to where harvested water will end up.