

**Submission
No 151**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Mr Samuel Denton

Date Received: 14 July 2021

To whom it may concern.

I would like to start this submission of by making it clear that I am not a resident of NSW and that I am also not a farmer, nor could I be described as belonging to any other group with a vested financial interest in water licenses. At one time my family did own a farm during my childhood, and I spent some great times there, but this is no longer the case. Perhaps it colors my interest in this matter.

The concept of Flood plain harvesting as a practice has recently been brought to my attention. My understanding that this practice is governed by the principle that when a region floods that this "extra" water should be allowed to be harvested by local farmers.

Although it may seem common sense that "When it floods, there's extra water for the taking" it is my understanding that both locally, in Australia, and globally it has been demonstrated time and time again that people are incapable of fully understanding the cascade of environmental impacts that can occur from simple actions.

The early deforestation of Australia by western settlers is an example of this. These settlers at the time had no idea that by logging so many trees would raise the water table and forever impact the salinity levels within our soil. We may be technically, in the sense of our technology, and scientifically more sophisticated than our ancestors. But I would urge you not to fall to the arrogance of common sense.

I hope for the sake of the towns and farms within southern NSW, who are experiencing, perpetual drought that you decide, at the very least, to consider the potential ecological impacts of this practice.

Thank you for your time.