

**Submission
No 155**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

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I have lived in rural/regional towns and urban areas where water security is somewhat essential but has not been properly managed. In particular I have observed the impacts of drought on farming communities. I am also an Economics graduate, and studying a Bachelor of Economics greatly heightened my interest in resources and production.

It strikes me as particularly important to acknowledge floodplain harvesting and water management as issues of public management. Further, it is also prudent to acknowledge that many farmers are among the best and brightest citizens living in rural communities.

As a question of access, it is important for NSW to ensure that there is an adequate public element of inquiry into floodplain harvesting. Water must go towards a plurality of industries in order to ensure the NSW economy is diversified as part of the broader diversification of Australia's national product.

Further, even those individuals who favour a 'light touch' liberal approach to economics should acknowledge that properly public management of utilities does not constitute an exception from their broader values of laissez-faire economic management. Water can still be commodified without allowing floodplain harvesting. Most of all, floodplain harvested should not be subjected to unbalanced protection from government bodies.

It is readily apparent to me that certain elements of politics wish to preserve unbalanced use of water particularly in the Riverina and the Murray-Darling. To infer that these political influences are at all 'honest' would be a considerable misattribution. There is nothing honest about failing to speak up about what you see happening in your electorate and in your state. To conceal their actions does not fall under the definition of honesty.

Since this is occurring on a large scale, it would be more accurately attributed to widespread corruption—within the confines of my state.

I finish by acknowledging the Aboriginal residents of the lands in question. Their connection to those lands and their wise use of them still remains in many areas. Where the land has fallen into disuse, a large Indigenous-shaped gap has been opened up.