

**Submission
No 156**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

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Hi I'm sure you have received many recent submissions so I'll keep this brief. The only reason to not enforce existing laws to eliminate predatory water tactics such as floodplain harvesting is corruption. Please please don't let Australia as a whole down because you want a few extra bucks.

Every reward has a cost and your kids will be the ones to pay it with interest if water is continued to be mismanaged in the way it is.

Flood plain harvesting limits water flowing downstream, limiting removal of organic carbon particulate which has led to drastic increases in algal production and severe declines in health outcomes of rural communities (<https://doi.org/10.1071/MF99112>).

Decreased river flows also lead to depletion of local ground water reserves as the "cycling of seasonal flood water through the groundwater reservoir thus plays a key role in creating and maintaining the biological and habitat diversity of the wetland, and inhibits the formation of saline surface water" (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2005.07.045>), obviously this is something we want to avoid as the decreased water flows caused by flood plain harvesting will lead to water insecurity and detrimental impacts in the quoted areas.

Finally, we cannot give up the flood flows we do get as they are instrumental in maintaining the environment WITH human cultivation. "In many settings where humans have severely modified rivers, more frequent larger floods will work to re-establish connections with severed flood-plain and riparian wetlands in human-dominated river valleys." (<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2002.1012>)

In this case, hoarding water upstream through flood plain harvesting during abundance prevents large flows downstream that repair damage done to the environment by human cultivation. The practice of abusing flood plain harvesting is morally and legally wrong and causes more damage than it could ever hope to profit.

Please read some of the articles I referenced and take action against flood plain harvesting because this sort of corruption hurts everyone in time.