

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Mr Anthony Paull

**Date Received:** 17 July 2021

---

The demonstrable effect of flood plain harvesting on downstream communities, from fish kills, negative health impacts from blue green algae, and lack of water flow in the lower basin, to causing exodus from Australian regional towns, putting farmers out of business, and even driving them to suicide should be obvious to anyone with a stake in the livelihoods of these people. Until the regulations are amended to reduce the maximum cap to water rights, and not only that, but also reduce these caps further in dry years to ensure the health and wellbeing of downstream communities.

The Cotton Australia website states that "While Australia is a small overall producer of Cotton, on a good year it can become the 3rd largest exporter"

Clearly, this cotton is not needed in the country, or we would not be such a large exporter. It is your job to act in the interest of the Australian people, and that is first and foremost the devastatingly impacted downstream communities, not the mega-wealthy cotton farmers upstream, or the international corporations who enter the water market with a massive advantage over local producers of other products downstream.

The health of the basin must be the first and foremost consideration to this committee, with the water "privileges" (NOT RIGHTS, because the only thing with a right to this water is the Australian land and the basin itself) of cotton farmers and other intensive water consumers upstream should be secondary or even tertiary in priority.

Do not mess this up, the future of this country depends on it. Australia is on track to see some of the worst impacts from climate change already, let's not make it worse by pre-depriving the land of water.