

**Submission  
No 200**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Ms Christine Cocks

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To the Committee.

I am Australian that is very concerned with the way the government is allowing destruction of this country's fragile environment. The situation of withholding of water from the Murray Darling Barka River systems is a worrying example.

Taxpayers paid billions of dollars to secure water flow for the environment, but since then the 'theft' of water from the system has increased. That was my money used, my family's money, my friends' money, and there has been no accountability. It is shameful that a small group of farmers and the media have had to work for years to expose the corruption that is associated with water theft within this river system. There are questions that those of us concerned with this situation would like answered;

-Despite the highlighting of water theft , why has the government of NSW done nothing to stop flood plain harvesting?

-Why has the MDBA not prosecuted a single case of water theft, despite having the capacity to prove its existence?

-Why have stronger measures not been taken to ensure that irrigators are complying with metering regulations, especially those with pumps of  $\geq 500\text{mm}$ ?

-Why has there been no investigation into the money-line associated with this country's water?

-Why is a dry country like Australia allowing water thirsty agriculture like cotton and almonds to be stealing water from our fragile environment?

It concerns me, greatly, the degraded environment our country is handing to my grandchildren, your grandchildren, our grandchildren.

Yours sincerely  
Christine Cocks