

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I would like to submit my personal observation of three water environments that I have watched suffer from what I would suspect is flood plain harvesting

1) For the past 14 years I have often travelled north crossing the Darling at Wilcannia . This year after big rains in the catchment and I gather a moratorium of sorts on the flood plain harvesting in the upper reaches I have at last witnessed a running river. Prior to this it has been a series of water holes - so much For the MDBA plan improving the river environments

2) I have lived beside the Lower Mirool Creek for 50 years and have witnessed the death of it as creek system. It is supposed to be a tributary to the Lachlan River . When the rain falls in the catchment area the creek fails to get past Barren Box Swamp which is under the jurisdiction of Murrumbidgee Irrigation. My understanding is that water is sold to Irrigators from this dam. It is surrounded by vast nut orchards that demand large amounts of water to survive. .The only time the creek seems to flow now is in extreme flood situations when the dam overflows from the tin roof effect and Murrumbidgee Irrigation then dump it into the creek and landholders along the lower Mirool then have to cope with a flood situation. There is no care for the creek environment in normal years unlike the creeks on the lower Lachlan that are awarded environmental flows each year.

3) The cabbage garden Creek is also a decimated creek environment ever since Lake Brewster has been dammed . I haven't seen water in it for many years.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission and I trust the relevant authorities will start to investigate the ravages to the environment that flood plain harvesting is causing

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