

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 5 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

Select Committee into Floodplain Harvesting Submission

Murrumbidgee NSW 2705

Our submission relates to 1(d) any other related matters:

I am writing this submission regarding the lack of jurisdiction by any authorities over NSW IIO's particularly _____ which we are shareholders in. The local issues are vast, and we believe some of the matters maybe of a criminal nature including water theft, possible insider trading with certain corporates and government agencies.

Several Ministers have been made aware of these issues and have done nothing, remembering that the IIO's in NSW were originally set up by the Government and we believe it is their responsibility not the shareholders to put things in place to address these problems.

I draw attention to matters relating to metering and compliance also and would like to state that this is not just an issue in the North but also an ongoing issue in the South as well.

_____ and ourselves have had a long standing issue for decades with their internal meters. The meters are non-compliant, incorrectly installed, are not reliable and there is nothing a shareholder can do to fix it as it is _____ infrastructure. In our case we have been over-billed for huge amounts of water that has been taken from our account and not delivered to our farms, this can occur simply by the company setting the meters on the wrong parameters and as a shareholder there is nothing you can do about it; the company are huge water traders and have been able to build a \$150M water portfolio over the past few years, an unbelievable achievement for a not for profit company.

In our case because we have stood up for our rights the company's way of dealing with us is to shut down our farming and make attempts for us to leave the area.

We believe there should be charges laid and a formal inquiry conducted into Irrigation and their corrupt ways, including their dealings with _____ - also including the trading of Delivery Entitlements.

The company is so corrupt when updating metering they leave the old pipework in place which many are the wrong size and retro fit new meters.

We were advised that NRAR has received hundreds of complaints about _____

but say they are powerless to take action, which would explain the level of corruption.

The ACCC have been aware of these issues for over a decade and for reasons beyond us have refused to act against these monopoly companies for their corrupt and anti-competitive behaviour, which includes their predatory and oppressive member contract.

Another major issue with the IIO's is the amount of water traders on the Boards and their conflicts of interest.

The rules and regulations need to be a blanket one for all, with no exemptions allowed and that includes the IIOs like _____, who have received approx. \$347M in federal funding and are yet to have compliant meters fitted to all internal meters, having approximately over 1000 yet to be upgraded to compliant metering standards.

They have an exemption under the new Non-Urban Metering Framework. Why? They have had years and received copious amounts of money for e.g., under the government Deemed Water handout and then under the PIIOP money, which have not made any water savings, this is

shown in their Annual Compliance Report on page 10, paragraph 3.6 **Supply Efficiency** Table 11(report attached). So, I ask you where did the money go?

It is still unclear now there is an Inspector General of the Murray Darling Basin if he will be able to take any action against the IIO's as they are a State entity and his office is Federal and maybe another waste of tax payers money?

At this stage there is no one that the farmers can go to that have any jurisdiction over these IIO's. We hope these issues can be raised publicly and Legislation can be changed to stamp out the corruption so that family farmers do not have to endure the decades of bullying and intimidation that our family has and those affected can be compensated.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards