

**Submission
No 236**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

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Flood plains harvesting is killing our rivers and our forest in many different ways and understanding how our forest works in conjunction with floods rainfall patterns . We are currently destroying the Australian landscape faster now than any time in history. From large scale land clearing to starving our rivers of water.

Keep our lakes full and our rivers flowing .

It's a river not an irrigation channel.

Flood plains is where the rain falls on dry lands that hasn't seen rain for years and the wide spread flooding rains across the paddocks then filling creeks rivers as it goes and then flowing back into rivers travels with wide spread flooding over the banks into the forest and water spreads over the dry lands and into the paddocks that haven't seen rain for years and into the creeks and billabongs. With the year of flooding rains were the river full and where fish breed and live under the falling down trees and snags in the river as slows its flow that helps it spread out for 100s of kms to parts of the river that has not had water in them for a long time .

It's apart over the lands water entitlements and bring on our wet springs and our weather and our environment and what it means to our country or rivers

Give us back our water and give us back more water for a healthy river system .

At what cost to NSW Victoria. and South Australia.

As our state's relies on floods from Queensland, And we say goodbye to the channels country when they destroy it from dams cotton and mining

This rain fall events was predicted 2 years before the first flood happened in Queensland plains .

Black box coolibah and river red gums spread across flood plains spreading for thousands kms right across our land from this flood plains thunderstorms spreading rain for thousands kms right across our land up into the mountains then regenerate the creeks and rivers and streams fill our dams and regenerate our forest and this why they are dying because we have stopped this from happening.

You live on flood plains it floods. It's not about your area it's the whole country that suffers from greedy destroying our land for future generations. It's not wasted water water it's half of the property water entitlement that is natural floods events happen every 12 years . Flood plains harvesting is killing our rivers system and making droughts longer and more difficult to cope with . Water from the floods belongs to every one along the entire river systems from streams creeks billabongs and our rivers.

Taking water from all the lakes along whole river systems is destroying the nature ecosystems along the entire country and this rain events happen that benefits all Australia.

There are reports that the damming rivers stopping the annual flooding across our whole river systems has led to the increasing dry years droughts and worse bush fires and it's in black and white for all to see.

Not only the people along whole river systems but people in the areas of the thunder storms path in Gum bark coolibah country north of Griffith to north of Cobar rely on the thunder storms as part of annual rain fall and it's easy to see in last ten years or so with out flooding of the Darling river this areas have suffered the worse from drought.

It's not rocket science that thunderstorms follow the river systems and the lack of trees and flood water this the less rain fall , this rivers are the life blood of our community and country.

Evaporation is apart of our country with out it many places will remain dryer .

As I said 2 years ago droughts will break from the north and as every river systems fills and floods starts the next river system to do the same and so on . In the months weeks more rivers would flood and for big dams that have been emptied with in 3 years will fill . All major dams will fill should not be allowed to drop below 33% they should always be 67% full at all times and the lakes along the rivers should never be empty. A water should be return to all creeks and stream along the entire river systems that have been let die .

Environmental floods and flows can coexisting with irrigation and at the right time of the year .

Each rivers systems need to have own set of water allocations and proven crops by all farmers along the whole river systems get a share allocation But the dam will fill over the next year BUT needs to last for 10 to 12 years . No ones against irrigaton but what water is used for dairy rice wheat stone fruits etc are food crop and should have water set aside Our river systems need to work out better plans for the healthy river systems.

Weather is created from the flood plains that will give us our spring thunder storms. With out them our forest will burn again .

Trees for life and lungs that breath out oxygen what people may not understand why the rain clouds form more once traveled over large tree stands to the forests is the fact that the oxygen vapour of the sort that the trees produce are lighter than air and in turn un into rain clouds and drift up high into sky .

To understand climate you have to understand the land we live in .

Large scale land cleaning is have many effect, wind drying out the soils faster rate and blowing good top soil away for our farms . and one the worse is reducing the amount of rainfall over ones farms from storms or rain events moving to fast across our lands from over clearing and remember storms follow the river systems and bring more rain fall to the areas along it.

WIND the widowmake of deserts every drought worse than the last one .

This was realised 20 years ago that the next generations of Australian to see the effect of this .

If these rains don't take place because of the loss of our forest that no longer collecting vapours and our land dries out and the risk of bush fires is to be expected our forest need rain too . I've work in the bush as my family has for generations and the knowledge i share with you all is to understand your land that walk on . Respect it and it will feed and cloth you and your family destroy it and we will all pay .

Stephen McGrath