

**Submission  
No 244**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

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# Submission

To

New South Wales Upper House inquiry into  
**Flood Plain Harvesting**

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## Introduction

The Murray Darling Basin plan is in a precarious position on the verge of collapse.

This plan, funded by the people of Australia to remedy problems within the river systems catchment areas has been corrupted by corporate agriculture, politicians, bureaucrats and the management of all things water.

This submission will look at my thoughts of what is wrong.

## About me

I am a 69 year old man living in Broken Hill with a concern for the river & lakes in our region.

New South Wales Government has and is doing all it can to subvert the Murray-Darling Basin plan by allowing Irrigators to tell them how the NSW State waters should be managed.

The Murray Darling Basin covers a huge area in four states with each state having control of their allocation.

NSW Government water management has decided that the Northern Basin is the most important region and so is doing all it can to stop water flowing down the Darling River to the Murray River.

The Bourke weir was raised so that it allows more water to be held back for irrigators with large pumps to transfer water to private dams for irrigation.

Flood Plain Harvesting and the licensing of illegal water take is an example of this.

The flood plains are a vital part of the river system environment needing flood waters to survive.

Water must be allowed to flow back into the river systems where possible to refresh the rivers and lakes lower down.

When catchment levee banks and dams are constructed there is less water for the rest of the system.

The New South Wales Government is trying to legalise the practice of Floodplain Harvesting for irrigators to take even more water from the already over extracted river system.

Q 1. How will the quantity of water taken be measured ?

The irrigators seem to be allowed to take what they wish with little or no action taken against them ?

Q 2. Who will supervise the building of levee banks and dams?

The irrigators cannot be trusted to do the right thing regarding sizes etc.?

Q 3. If Floodplain Harvesting legalised who will cart water for down stream farmers, river communities and Indigenous people because they have no water ?

FloodPlain harvesting may be OK for farmers to water stock but when it is done on large scales used in agriculture for food & fibre there is little water left for Communities and the users on the lower reaches of the river systems.

Floodplain harvesting must be restricted but since it is in practice now may be impossible to change the views of Land owners.

It is my view that the management of water in New South Wales has been corrupted for Political gain and needs a good flush out.

The Menindee Lakes are a vital part of the River system with Indigenous history, fish breeding and water birds.  
Without these lakes the lower Darling will die.

Flood Plain Harvesting will stop all waters above Bourke until major flooding and so kill the system.

Thanking You.

Christopher Rawlins  
Broken Hill.