

**Submission  
No 248**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Ms Frances Petroboni

**Date Received:** 13 August 2021

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Frances Pietroboni 11-8-2021

Griffith. NSW. 2680

Select Committee on Floodplain

Harvesting Submission

Dear Select Committee

Australia from our first explorers found out that our inland country, a country of drought, the year 1829. Sturt and Hume during the short time exploring they found a river that promised to reward all. Eager to quench their thirst the sun so powerful, Sturt and Hume were disappointed to find the water unfit to drink it was salty. Sturt had seen the river ceased to flow the water disappeared and as long as the drought continued the vegetation had disappeared and was almost annihilated. Sturt named the river the Darling.

The Darling River is the longest inland river, it's starting point is in Queensland, and it finds its way across the vast inland "catchment" area and towns, there is very little run off or no regular run off water to the river. The Darling finds its way to the Murray River, as it flows to South Australia.

Water management of the Darling River it all depends on the rain, and the flood water that come from Queensland floods, Rain is the life blood of every one that lives along the Darling River, Communities, animals and the environment. It is common knowledge that the Darling has a habit of ceasing to flow.

When it comes to floodplain harvesting, there has to be rules that safe guards the people along the vast inland river' that finds its way so slowly all the way to South Australia.

In 2016 in the middle of floods, Menindee Lakes were drained, not once but twice in four years and no one has taken responsibility.

Jan 2019 reported, of three devastating fish kill along the Darling River in Menindee, as thousands of dying fish kill along the Darling river Menindee, were washed up on the shores, and politicians were quick to point the blame in every direction.

It has been said that currently floodplain harvesting is unlicensed and unmetered, free for all to take. NSW government is seeking to legalise and create new water licences. Our drought of 2001 to 2010 in the middle of the drought 2008, federal and state minister paid \$34 million buying 250 Gegalitre of Darling River Supplementary water during a drought, in 2017 another drought more Darling water entitlement buy back, does it make sense? Buying water entitlements in the middle of drought when there is no water in the river

How many times has the Darling River stopped running over the last 100 years? It is called the cycle of weather, March 2018 river run's dry. Bottle water delivered to town of Walget as drinking water ran out.

Since Government made rain a trade-able item, and any one can own the rain without owning land.?

Griffith. NSW. 2680

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*The Area News Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 1999*

*WATER will be separated from the land and traded like shares in an effort to allow effective and efficient water trading in NSW, according to recommendations made by a Department of Land and Water Conservation Commissioned report.*

*VICTORIA consulting economists Marsden Jacobson Associates were retained by the DLWC to prepare the report into water trading development and monitoring, which was released two months ago.*

*Under the proposed new trading framework, water entitlements could be held by any person or entity.*

*"They will not need to own land or other water. Water will be treated no differently to SHARES or LAND (and Is) then seen as an asset."*

*The report recommends that the Water Act and regulations be amended to separate ownership of land from water.*

*However, these aspects of the report have alarmed Murrumbidgee Valley Water Users Association president and retired rice farmer Jim Mc Gann. "The separation of water from land is a dangerous move in my belief, "(The report) cause nothing but concern to me and I believe people in the community should take it on board".*

*Mr McGann said he is concerned about how the recommendations will affect the value of irrigation land across the region.*

*"How can you trade something that comes from the sky?*

*"It is unbelievable what the bureaucrats and economists are doing to people west of the divide, and we're just have to accept it.*

***Re floodplain Harvesting .... The question we should be asking in regard to rain. Who owns the rain?***

***It has been said in principle we do. Theoretically. Australians own all the rain that falls in Australia, that rain becomes a Lake, Rivers and streams that flow over the land and underground water that flows beneath it.***

***That's our water, its our common property, our birth right. Selling of water "an ethical issue"***

***Your Sincerely***



Chrissie and Bill Ashby, "Trevallyn Station", Wilcannia, in the dry river bed of the Darling. Locals are now planning a cricket game there, to show the river's plight.

## River runs dry, it's not cricket

JUST as floodwaters look likely to send a flush of water down the Darling-Barwon system, the plight of the river has been highlighted by western leaseholders.

The photo was used by Greens MLC Jeremy Buckingham to highlight the lack of environmental flows down the famous river system last week.

But nothing is expected

to change when the floodwaters come down to NSW, with the flow only expected to get as far as Bourke.

Last week, the NSW Department of Industry - Water announced temporary restrictions on A, B and C class water access licences in the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River to protect valuable low flows entering the river.

"The restrictions have

been deemed necessary as during the last two months, multiple locations along the Barwon-Darling River, such as Bourke, Louth and Wilcannia, have experienced no flow conditions with water in pools and weirs rapidly depleting."

Tilpa locals are planning a cricket match on the dry bed next week.

— JOHN ELLICOTT

March 2018 Wilcannia the Darling River dry bed