

**Submission  
No 253**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Amelia and Kathalka Whyman

**Date Received:** 13 August 2021

---

Amel ia and Kathalka Whyman  
13<sup>th</sup> August, 2021  
Wilcannia, NSW, 2386

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to the upper house committee that are doing the inquiry into flood plain harvesting in NSW. Our Baaka, the Darling River is slowly dying.

As proud young Barkindji women, we need to protect our Baaka.

We are proud of our ancestors for keeping the river healthy, so that as we grow up, we learn about how they lived, so that we can pass that learning on to the next generation. If our river continues to be mismanaged as it has been, we will loose that opportunity to teach our children about the traditions and old ways, how people lived on our beautiful clear river, before it was destroyed today.

The river is important to us because-

- It helps the trees near the river bank grow. Our environment is important to protect. We must protect our river because without it we won't know how to protect the animals, who also need drinking water. Our kangaroos, emus and goannas need the water to survive.
- To not be able to go swimming, fishing and yabbing on our country would be devastating.
- The water also affects our drinking and cleaning water.
- The Baaka is dying. Our culture and people are dying. The off stream billabongs, their flora and fauna are dying, all due to the excessive upstream lake. This is unfair.

It is unfair that Australians are not realizing that our small community is fighting for our river and our animals to survive. The Government needs to listen to our voice, it may be small but it is loud. As the next generation, people must understand that it is not just our elders who feel the connection to the river, but our youth as well. When the river is up, we have things to do. When there is no water, our young people have nothing to do, and that is when young people turn to things like crime.

We need the river to survive. We need you to listen to us and to help us save our river.

This land is, was and always will be, Traditional Aboriginal land. Unfortunately we need the government to stand up and manage our river properly, so that we can continue to care for our country.

Yours sincerely,

Amelia and Kathalka Whyman