

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

As a community member of an irrigation-dependent community and a NSW taxpayer, I support that all forms of water taken for irrigation should be licensed, metered and reported to government and our community. This includes floodplain harvesting, which is an important source of water in our region during times of plenty (when it floods).

Whilst I am not an irrigator, myself and my community simply rely on irrigation and floodplain harvesting to keep our jobs and to provide certainty for our regional towns, our local economy and general wellbeing.

I think that government office-holders and city dwellers are often guilty of disregarding the rural residents and downplay the importance of sustaining our rural towns. Do they forget that the rural sector provides the food for their tables and the fibre for their clothes.

I think the mainstream population are too quick to vocalise about northern irrigators stealing water, the media is too quick to report on water theft. Their ignorance of the facts results in the misconception that all farmers steal water. I have worked for farms in the MDB and can honestly state from my experience that this is simply not the case. I believe that licencing the FPH is the answer to a balance between sharing the water with farmers all along the MDB and the environment.

Furthermore, living in a rural town, that's main industry is agriculture, I believe that licencing the flood events in the form of FPH, will provide some form of certainty for a sustainable future for rural communities. To keep our jobs. To keep our younger generations from leaving the land. To keep our younger generations from leaving the rural areas. To provide food and fibre for the whole of Australia. And just as importantly to keep us employed and productive in thriving towns provides for general well-being and self-worth of all members of our local community. In recent times it has become very clear the importance of mental health for ourselves and our community.

We have a small voice compared to the numbers in the cities. Please do not disregard us!!!!