

**Submission
No 256**

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Mr Garry Hall
Date Received: 13 August 2021

I'm a fourth generation Landholder in the Macquarie Marshes ,our business is directly dependent on the health of the wetland as we graze cattle in the Marshes.

I have been involved in (as a community representative) the development of 2003/4 water sharing plan ,remake of this plan and the water resource plan.

I sit as a local rep on the environmental water advisory group ,and I'm the current chair of the Macquarie Marshes environmental landholders association.

Our family business has a private Ramsar site (U block) included in our land holding as well as a unregulated irrigation license.

I would like to draw attention to the way floodplain licenses and NRAR have investigated the historical use (take) on our property.

We have an active(in use) unreg license and due to its poor reliability have not applied for a floodplain harvest license. Mainly because I cannot continue licensee fees for water that is very un reliable.

We had on site visits from NRAR and they had no understanding of the current license conditions or how the unreg system is managed. They had never even heard of active management..

It seems to me that water NSW and DPIE are not sharing knowledge or NRAR are thinking they know how the river is operated and they don't.

DPIE have no local staff with an understanding of operational issues, water NSW have no intention of educating NRAR ,its not there job, and really the whole thing is a mess.

The fact that floodplain harvest licenses will be issued when so little is understood about the practice is horrifying ,the risk to the NSW government that many licenses will have to be purchased back in 2024 when the review into environmental outcomes is due ,at the cost to the NSW taxpayer is irresponsible .

Flood plain harvesting has been and still is illegal in NSW ,the impact to down stream connectivity is massive and the environmental outcome report that DPIE have done is full of holes .

The Macquarie river is massively over allocated, the granting of floodplain harvesting license's is not going to help.

Can I ask the select committee to investigate if the floodplain harvesting policy includes compliance with the water act.