

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Chair

- All major forms of water should be licenced, metered and accounted for against legal limits. It is inequitable for other water users otherwise.
- Licensing floodplain harvesting and rainfall runoff is not giving irrigators new water – it is just regulating a long-standing practice.
- Licensing floodplain harvesting is not giving irrigators extra water either – in fact, the opposite. Irrigators will be allowed to take less water than they have historically.
- The reduction in water access once licenses come in will hurt our farm business, but we accept it's the right thing to do.
- Our community has not always supported this reform, and politicians should not take for granted that we are here accepting tougher regulation and less water, because it's the right thing to do for the environment and water management.
- Right now, because floodplain harvesting is not regulated and the Government has no mechanism to limit it, the Government is cutting back the water available for supplementary licence holders instead. This is not fair - you do not rob Peter, the supplementary licence holder, to pay Paul the floodplain harvester.
- I'm tired of being called a thief because the Government hasn't given me any rules. This debacle is impacting the mental health and well-being of our community.
- Reducing, licencing and metering floodplain harvesting is the answer here, and should not be delayed any longer.

Thank you