

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

Friday 13th August 2021

Chair, NSW Legislative Council Select Committee
Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting
floodplainharvesting@parliament.nsw.gov.au Lodged online

Re: Submission into Inquiry into Floodplain Harvesting

Dear Chair,

I am an irrigator in the Namoi Valley, that has been deemed ineligible for any FPH licence. Even though I am ineligible for a licence, I believe it is imperative that the FPH licensing progress through to the issuing of licences, to those that have historically used this water source. The licensing, regulation and metering of FPH will give the community confidence that this take is legal and according to the rules and leaves no room for finger pointing and false accusations of water theft.

Licensing this water take will limit irrigators access to take and it has never been illegal as some misinformed people have wrongly surmised. If it is illegal why would it be represented in the Murray Darling Ministerial Cap on diversion?

Maintaining rainfall runoff exemption is also an important part of this regulation being successful and workable. It is an irrigators requirement by law to capture runoff, off their fields to stop any contamination to the waterways. Any notion of accounting and licensing and limiting rainfall runoff capture is opening up the whole process to failure. Where does an irrigator sit that doesn't receive a FPH licence when they have to capture and retain their rainfall runoff?

The regulation of FPH has to be finalised and implemented ASAP to halt the ongoing uncertainty and angst in our rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration.