

INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 August 2021

Partially
Confidential

I object to the NSW government proposed licencing and legislation of floodplain harvesting.

Australia is the driest continent after Antarctica, and we must do everything to preserve our natural water courses. The effects of global warming makes it more imperative to protect our river systems. Water theft is already occurring. Instead of licencing and legitimising theft the NSW Government should be monitoring and prosecuting water theft.

The increasing amount of water stolen from the north west of the basin has already effected the environment, contributing to the shrinking of the Macquarie Marshes and the Menindee Lakes. Not only is there a devastating effect on the habitat of the diverse wildlife, (including 35 species of birdlife that is endangered), the farms on the lowers reaches of the river are also severely impacted.

40% of Australian agriculture is produced in the basin. It is totally unjust to allow large farms and multinationals in the north to jeopardize the livelyhood and food production of farms down stream.

Food security will become more and more important as the climate changes. The health of the Murray/ Darling Basin will thus become more and more important.

Water trading was originally designed to save water. Now it is used by commodity traders and big business for profit. It is immoral and economically irresponsible to allow this to happen.

Floodplain harvesting is killing out rivers.

Think of the future of our children. Water is Life

Please reject this proposed licencing and legislation of floodplain harvesting.

Thank you