

**Submission  
No 265**

## **INQUIRY INTO FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

**Name:** Mr Ron Perry  
**Date Received:** 13 August 2021

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Submission To

New South Wales Upper House inquiry into FLOOD PLAN HARVESTING

I was raised in the Coomealla Irrigation area, and later owned a horticultural property there. For many years, I camped on the Darling river for our holidays. I am now retired,

I would like to bring to the inquiry's attention: How much damage has been done to the environment and ecosystems of the Darling-Barka River and its tributaries, and many Anna Branches by flood plain harvesting?

An example.

The many stations along the Greater Annabranche of the Darling-Barka was pipe lined by NSW to save water. This enabled damage to that environment and ecosystem. At what cost?

Another example.

There are Australian significant wetlands listed along the Greater Annabranche. "Darling Anabranche Lakes" Referenced

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/18f0bb21-b67c-4e99-a155-cb5255398568/files/directory-ch6.pdf>

These wetlands have been totally devoid of any significant water in the recent years. What is the impact of FPH on their existence as wetlands?

A MDBA reference to the lower Darling and the Annabranche:

[https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-tlm-reports/525\\_menindeelakesdarling.pdf](https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/archived/mdbc-tlm-reports/525_menindeelakesdarling.pdf)

I would like to point out a couple of the "alternative facts" on the following document, from the Gwyder Valley Irrigators Association. "Making every drop count" is their logo.

<https://www.gvia.org.au/news/response-to-floodplain-harvesting-concerns/>

"What is floodplain harvesting?"

Floodplain harvesting is the capture and use of over land flow water flowing across a floodplain during a flood. Irrigators everywhere in NSW (north and south) capture over land flow water as part of their works approval requirements to capture rainfall on farm to mitigate environmental impacts. Farms are specifically designed for this purpose.

Irrigators on floodplains have flood protection works designed to exclude overland flow to protect their crops, homes and farm infrastructure from damage.

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It is not true that irrigators everywhere in NSW capture overland water.

Further on they claim in a later paragraph. "Farmers have had access to overland flows ever since the Water Act 1912 NSW. I disagree. That Water Act does not give anyone the right to take any water that does not belong to them. Overland flows do not belong to them.,

Sadly, within that document there is no acknowledgement how they can help the environment recover from the devastation FPH has caused.

The full document should be read to see how the facts can be distorted. Sadly many believe these “alternate facts”.

Please remember my original question when considering every submission: How much damage has been done to the environment and ecosystems of the Darling-Barka River and it's tributaries, and many Anna Branches by flood plain harvesting?

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely

Ron Perry

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