

Online submission: Floodplain harvesting policy - Cliff

1 message

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Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 2:21 PM

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 Type of
 submission: I am making a personal submission
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Your submission

Which
 consultation
 paper does
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 relate to?: Floodplain harvesting policy

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This policy will undoubtedly cause great conflict across all areas of the state. This policy will create winners and losers among landholders. A farmer who has a license to harvest the floodplain will be able to deny water to their down stream or down slope neighbours. The license holder will be able to construct levee's to a height of 0.5 metres without the need to advertise the works. Levee's will be constructed to a height much higher than 0.5 metres ,as they take time to consolidate and firm up. There is also no provision to actually check the heights once constructed ,so the policy relies on self policing. The policy seems to ignore the importance of cross plain flows to all landholders and gives preference to some one who is willing to pay a license fee to the government. An upstream neighbour may suffer from afflux and ponding on their land causing economic loss. The down stream neighbour suffers from economic loss simply by not getting their fair share of the available water flows. The person with the license will want all the available water when their storage is empty, conversely they won't want any when their storage is full. This level of economic control over the surrounding landholders is unacceptable. This policy needs to be abandoned for the above reasons and for the effects that wide spread adoption of floodplain harvesting will lead to much reduced flows into rivers and creeks. It will interfere with the interaction between the floodplain and rivers and interfere with the organic carbon and other nutrient exchange which is vital to maintain a healthy stream ecosystem. The whole of the river systems needs to be taken into consideration not just focusing on individual localised operations. Agriculture is all about turning water into dollars. Whether the water gets used to grow cotton , grain , oil seeds or grass does not matter. What matters is that water is equally important to all landholders.

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Form Information

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