

Water Regional Roadshow – Floodplain Harvesting Submission

Broken Hill Session – 20 March 2018

Should rainfall runoff be included or excluded from the framework?

- Floodplain harvesting (overbank flows and rainfall runoff) and other forms of take should not be allowed until there is a good flush down the system.
- The Barkandji want cultural, natural flows which are not the same as environmental flows.
- Cultural water should be provided, stored at Menindee and managed by Barkandji people.
- The Commonwealth gave us Native title but NSW takes our water away – how can our culture exist without water?
- If you take the Barka (Darling River) away from the Barkandji people we have nothing - no culture.
- As soon as the river goes down the crime rate goes up.
- No opportunity to practice culture (Aboriginal or European historic culture).
- Floodplain harvesting is taking all the water away.
- If you floodplain harvest, don't harvest unless there have been environmental and cultural, natural flows.
- Why aren't government people letting the water go?
- Everyone needs a chance to make a living – not just the cotton growers.
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Measuring floodplain harvesting

- There are gauges on the Murray but why are there gauges in the Northern Basin that don't seem to work?
- Why are there people above Bourke with broken meters who are allowed to keep pumping?
- Every gauge should be working or don't pump.
- All water users should have tamper proof, Australian standard meters put on straight away.
- All pumps should have a meter – it keeps everyone honest.
- Pumping shouldn't start until there has been a good flush down the Barka (Darling River) and the river restored at Menindee Lakes with water supply available for Broken Hill town water and recreational purposes.
- If people can't afford a meter the government should subsidise the farmers that can't pay.
- No subsidies for big cotton growers.
- Subsidies from Louth downstream.

Broken Hill Pipeline

- Broken Hill pipeline – don't want it but know we can't stop it.
- There should be no more big pumps /development allowed from Louth down on Barkandji peoples' Native Title lands.
- There are two laws – black law and white law – and the white law is not respecting black law by not looking after the Barka (Darling River) and its people – black and white.
- The Broken Hill pipeline - has to be the last one.
- How can we teach our culture – we can't catch anything out of a pipeling.
- Give us a guarantee that the Barka (Darling River) will flow for future generations.
- Go back to when the paddle steamers could go all the way up to Walgett – now you can't even put a bark canoe in it.