

Implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy

The implementation to date of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting arrangements have been drawn out, disjointed and generally unsatisfactory. The complexity of the process and the information required has left most irrigators in a state of despair.

The intent is simple, to authorise the historic harvesting of floodwaters at specific locations.

To permit irrigators to access flood flows as they have historically.

Many irrigators would like to see the FPH program expedited.

1. Rainfall Runoff

Rainfall occurs in all catchments across the State.

Rainfall run off interception occurs in all catchments across the State.

The treatment of rainfall runoff should be consistent across all catchments of the State.

The treatment of rainfall runoff on the floodplains should be the same as the treatment exercised on the slopes and ranges, the tablelands and the coast.

Rainfall runoff capture should not be the subject of fees charged by a government department.

Which option?

Option 1 with no fees charged for the rainfall runoff component and a 5 year rolling average on the account rules.

2. Monitoring FPH

The monitoring of flood plain harvesting capture by storage gauges, reconciled in an annual return which identifies the rainfall runoff component, is adequate base measurement.

Many irrigators already have equipped on-farm water storages with electronic data transfer metres which add a higher level of measurement.

3. Account management rules

The Water Sharing Plan processes resulted in different account rules for different catchments.

Accordingly, account management rules for FPH should be developed on a Valley by Valley basis.