

[REDACTED]

Water Renewal Taskforce
Department of Industry
GPO BOX 5477
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to make a combined submission to both the Floodplain Harvesting and Water Reform Consultation papers as there is only a submission address for the (WRAP) submissions, I am hoping you will forward this to the appropriate sub department section for floodplain harvesting.

WATER TAKE MEASUREMENT AND METERING

All extractions of water for irrigation, regulated, unregulated, floodplain harvesting, overland flow, irrigation storm water capture should be included as water take, and should also be included in hydrology model “diversions”, not hidden in “losses” or decreased “inflows”.

The rule should be “no measurement- no taking, break rule loose license.”

All water orders should be shown on a publicly available data base, updated daily, showing when ordered, quantity, when started extracting, when finished extracting.

The punishment for breaking rules (stealing) water should be a multiple of the stolen quantity, removed from the whole irrigation industry, so that stealing irrigation water is stealing from irrigators not from the rest of the community.

A publicly released understandable acknowledgement of the amount and failings of the measurement and metering that has occurred under the management of government agencies since the first planning of major dams

on each river. This will establish a BASELINE standard that in the future the department and public can have confidence of a measurable improvement.

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

As the 'WRAP' process is a result of the Mathews inquiry, for transparency's sake, it should be acknowledged that the terms of reference for the Mathews inquiry were very limited precise and concise and as such the results, although amazingly confronting, must also be limited and not a complete cleansing of the wrongdoing.

As discussed above, the hiding of illegal, unmeasured, not paid for, not licensed Floodplain Harvesting, Overland flows in 'losses' and decreased 'inflows' has misled the socio economic studies done by the MDBA which have falsely included the above water as economic and jobs benefit for the Warren community. This false economic gain and jobs growth was knowingly promoted by the NSW government, Local government and there agencies. It is about time Water NSW corrected this transparent error.

A recent transparency problem of the department of Industry.

The department sent letters out to "customers" titled,'Conditions of Water Licenses and Approvals', the date of the letter was 05/02/2018. My letter had obvious mistakes in it, so I was required to make a submission within 28 days of the date of the letter. The problem is the postage stamp date on the outside of the letter is 16/03/2018, eleven days after the closing date for submissions. (photos available if required)

The transparency will be to see the punishment/cover-up in the department. Will it be like floodplain harvesting, given a bonus, or like the rest of the downstream community, punished? We shall look forward to a public announcement.

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WATER.

Your department and its predecessor are the creators of the damaged environment. To suggest you fix it is a joke and will not happen. The best solution is the removal of all your responsibilities except irrigation and create a new department of sustainability in charge of water, air and soil.

IMPLEMENTING THE NSW FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING POLICY.

Floodplain harvesting, overland flow captured water was announced by Nathan Reese when he was Water Minister in about July 2008. Not to suggest Nathan Reese was corrupt, but there was two very strong dominating politicians who have since been found to be guilty of corruption. Up to that point floodplain harvesting was not licensed, not measured not paid for, and theft. Since that announcement it is still not licensed, not measured and not paid for. It seems completely unjust to reward these thieves with licenses when they should be punished and have profits from crime findings against them.

For transparency, a summary of the estimated floodplain harvesting and storage reservoirs on each river should be publicly available so that future improvements can be measured and quantities and values of unlicensed take can be recognised.

The Australian climate can be summarised as “droughts and flooding rains” so to split the community and give one of those selected communities (irrigators) all the floods and the other part of the community (downstream of irrigators) all the droughts seems a strange way of sharing our climate. This is demonstrated by giving unlimited carryover and 500% annual usage, when in the Macquarie the average time between dam spills is 3 years and the maximum about 5 years. This will mean over time, that the reliability of floodplain harvested water will be 100% while general security water has been approximately 30% over recent years. The result will be that people who have stolen unlicensed water in the past now have the most reliable water in the Macquarie valley and the downstream grazing communities who need drought breaking rain will live in perpetual drought.

Yours faithfully

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