**RE: ILLEGAL FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING**

I am a basin compliant irrigator in the Southern Riverina who is extremely concerned about the inequity surrounding irrigation in the state of NSW.

For many, many years I have been licensed and metered as required by the Basin Plan and the Water Management Act and yet how can it be in the north of the state there is no such compliance?

I am aware the practice of floodplain harvesting is occurring via outdated works approvals under the Water Act 1912 (NSW). With the disallowance of the Water Management (General) Amendment (Exemptions for Floodplain Harvesting) Regulation 2020, these works can no longer legally facilitate the take and use of water without a licence.

I am also aware the Southern Riverina Irrigators (**SRI**) have written to NRAR asking for legal clarity around the next large rainfall event.

Will NRAR enforce compliance of the Water Management Act 2000 (NSW) or explain why it is not necessary for action?

Like everyone else in the basin, I want to know if the rules that apply to those in the southern basin will be applied equally to those in the northern basin.

We know the NRAR board has met and discussed the disallowance and determined they won’t be making a public statement on this issue and yet this is very much in the public interest.

As a farmer I have been strictly following the laws and regulations around water and I am being impacted by the lack of water reaching Menindee Lakes.

There are currently no floodplain harvesting licences and whilst I have heard statements by NSW DPIE they will be finalised by July 2021, I have no confidence this will be the case.

Can you confirm if there will be enforcement of the Water Management Act 2000 requirement for the take and use of water via a licence and meter, until floodplain harvesting licences are implemented?

Thanks,