

**The Hon Rose Jackson MLC**

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing,  
Minister for Homelessness  
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth



Our ref: MF26/2087

Ms Melissa Gray  
Healthy Rivers Dubbo  
PO BOX 216  
DUBBO NSW 2830

By email: healthyriversdubbo@gmail.com

Dear Ms Gray mel.

**Subject: Floodplain Harvesting**

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2026.

During budget estimates on 19 August 2026 there were questions about the challenges faced by the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) in the context of a complex regulatory regime and current legal proceedings against the Department relating to flood plain harvesting licences.

NRAR continues to actively monitor water take from floodplain harvesting and oversee compliance in this area.

NRAR has a range of regulatory tools and enforcement options available to detect and respond to water law breaches, including unlawful floodplain harvesting take in NSW. As you know, some options, such as prosecution, require satisfaction of the highest standard of proof. Other options, such as directions to protect water sources, do not require any determination of unlawful activity. The choice of appropriate enforcement action will depend on the circumstances, consistent with NRAR's Regulatory Policy.

Protecting water for critical human needs and the environment during dry periods remains a key priority. The NSW Government will soon make amendments to water sharing plans in the Macquarie, Border Rivers and Gwydir valleys that will prohibit floodplain harvesting when active storage in the Upper Menindee Lakes falls below 250 gigalitres. These rules are already in the water sharing plans for the Barwon-Darling and Namoi valleys.

In the meantime, floodplain harvesting is already prohibited in the northern basin while the active storage in the Upper Menindee Lakes remains below 250 gigalitres due to a temporary water restriction under section 324 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Given current climatic conditions and long-range forecasts, opportunities for floodplain harvesting are expected to be limited in the foreseeable future. The combination of ongoing compliance oversight, existing regulatory powers and the targeted restrictions already in place provides an appropriate and proportionate response to the risks you have raised.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter. If your organisation would like further information, please contact Samantha McCallum in my office via [Samantha.McCallum@minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Samantha.McCallum@minister.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Rose Jackson MLC**

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Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth

Date: 29.9.26

*Hi Mel - I know these ones  
are important to you. I hope  
this provides clarity - there is no  
homework happening  
floodplain at the moment and we will continue  
to respond to issues  
as well as possible. R.*