

## Agenda

### Healthy Floodplains Review Committee Meeting

Meeting Room DPI Water Office

Government Office Building

Level 2, 66 Frome Street Moree

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:30 – 10:00	Gather & morning tea	
10:00 -12:30	Floodplain Harvesting modelling	
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:00	Modelling outcomes	
14:00 -14:30	General Business	
14:30	Close	



<b>to</b>	Healthy Floodplains Review Committee		
<b>from</b>	██████████ Licensing Coordinator Healthy Floodplains Project	<b>t</b>	██████████
		<b>f</b>	██████████
		<b>e</b>	████████████████████
<b>date</b>	3 September 2015		

**Subject:** ██████████ Briefing

**Purpose**

To provide the committee with background information concerning a case that may be referred to it for review.

**Background**

Floodplain Harvesting Registration of Interest (ROI) M029 has been lodged with DPI Water in respect of the property ██████████. The ROI was prepared by the consulting firm ██████████ on behalf of ██████████.

On 11 February 2015 ██████████ was inspected to by Water Regulation Officer ██████████ in company with representatives of ██████████ ██████████ and ██████████. The reason for the inspection was to assess the floodplain harvesting capability of the subject property and for ██████████ to make a recommendation concerning the eligibility of ██████████ to participate in the rollout of floodplain harvesting access licences.

The property was determined to be eligible. A copy of the inspection report is attached. The registrants were advised of DPI Water's decision by letter dated 3 March 2015.

**Issue**

Whilst it is clear that ██████████ is floodplain harvesting eligible, the registrants have expressed concern regarding the exclusion of a water storage from floodplain harvesting calculations. This may impact on the quantum of the floodplain harvesting entitlement that will eventually be granted.

**Comments/Options**

The water storage in question does not comply with the eligibility criteria prescribed in the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (copy attached) as it was applied for and built some time after the 'line in the sand' of 3 July 2008. Normally this non-compliance would close the door on further consideration. However, the registrants claim there are mitigating circumstances and these are outlined below.

The Macquarie Floodplain Management Plan was adopted in December 2008, five months after the floodplain harvesting closing date. The registrants claim that they approached the predecessor of DPI Water on several occasions prior to 3 July 2008 regarding construction of a number of earthworks on the floodplain, including the subject water storage. They further claim

that they were advised to wait until the floodplain management plan was completed before they lodged their application for these earthworks. The registrants say that this advice disadvantages them because they were unable to construct the works until 2009 and, therefore, they may suffer a decreased floodplain harvesting entitlement as a result.

The registrants have been advised that they have two options in regard to having their case reviewed. These are

1. They can lodge a submission with DPI Water now. Provided that they are able to produce evidence to support their case DPI Water will refer the matter to the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee to investigate and make an appropriate recommendation to the Deputy Director General Water.
2. They can wait until floodplain harvesting modelling is completed for the Macquarie Valley and see what their entitlement will be. If they are satisfied with the volume offered that will be the end of the matter. If they are not happy they can lodge a submission with DPI Water outlining their case. Ultimately this option will have the same result as option 1 as the matter will still be referred to the committee for review.

In order to get this matter sorted out at the earliest opportunity I have recommended to the registrants that they go with option 1.

### **Recommendation**

That the committee notes the information provided.

