

## Submission from Clem Wheatley

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State water approved a few farmers to take a small amount of water, heavy rain causing localised flooding which is more than the creeks and rivers could handle, has overflowed and broken out of these systems to flood adjacent lower areas, likewise localised flooding of dry land country, has caused overland flood flows, none of this water will actually reach the upper Darling.

In this situation, the government department actually did the right thing, the water would have never reached the Darling river at the Bourke, let alone the lower Darling.

The only fault I can find in the governments actions on this occasion, is that they did not allocate more of this water to agriculture, as it will only soak in or evaporate, it would do exactly the same thing for the environment if it was in a farmers paddock, only there would be an increase in agricultural product and benefit to communities.

The flood plains are lower than the banks of the rivers, except in really big flood events, water that flows out of the river, does NOT return to the flood plain, water that flows from dry land catchments outside of the river, across flood plains, does not reach the river, in massive flood events, as much as 60%, does not make it back or too the river.

Except in really large rain/flood events, flood plain water generally has little to no bearing on down stream flows or levels, rivers catch water all along their length, they rely on inflows along their entire length for them to be at peak flow.

Water on the flood plain is restricted to that FP area, the vast majority of it soaks in, (up to 20 megalitres per hectare) and or evaporates, if farmers are allowed to utilise a SMALL portion of the overall volume, that water still remains on the FP area, exactly the same as the rest of the majority of the water thereon.

The water utilised by farmers, still soaks in and or evaporates on/in that FP area, with the added advantage of some agricultural production, which benefits many rural communities and the nation as a whole, at no detriment to the environment and, the same as the rest of FP water, NO detriment to down stream flows.

Thanks Clem Wheatley