



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment and Energy**

Committee Secretary  
Health and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

[hec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Inquiry in to Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) has no specific comment on the bill or the Queensland legislation. e

The Authority, as part of the Australian Government is deeply committed to protecting the World-Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef. The Reef supports around 64,000 jobs and contributes an estimated \$6.4 billion dollars annually to the national economy.


The centrepiece of Australia's Reef protection efforts is the Reef 2050 Plan, jointly developed with the Queensland Government. The focus of the Reef 2050 Plan is on supporting the Reef's health and resilience to climate change by reducing local and regional pressures.

There is a large body of evidence, over many years, culminating in the Great Barrier Reef 2019 Outlook Report, which identifies land-based run off as one of the highest risk threats to the Reef, specifically sediment and nutrient run-off. That is why both governments are investing to improve water quality.

Our Chief Scientist, Dr David Wachenfeld discussed this body of evidence in his recent attendance at a public hearing for this Inquiry.

The Authority recognises that Government and industry, particularly farmers, have invested significantly in reducing the input of excess nutrients, sediment and pesticides into the Great Barrier Reef. These actions, along with those taken to improve coastal habitats, minimise erosion, reduce waste entering waterways and improve the efficiency of fertiliser applications on farms can improve the quality of water entering the Marine Park.

Yours sincerely



Josh Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer

18 June 2021