## **Health and Environment Committee**

From: Margie Lee-Madigan

**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 June 2021 1:30 PM **To:** Health and Environment Committee

**Subject:** submission for reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures South Burnett

area

To whom it may concern,

I write to you as a fifth generation cattle grazier from the Barkers Creek area of the South Burnett. My family has owned, worked and nurtured the same blocks of land since 1889

. In total I currently own

approximately 2700ha in the South Burnett Regional council area. All my land is included in the Great Barrier Reef Protection Zone. Our land, water and environment is our most valuable asset to be able to survive in daily life and future generations are in the foremost of my mind with my own two young adult children.

I write to you as it is in my view the South Burnett region should not be subject to the Reef Regulations as they stand today. I have attended information sessions, read the government documents and researched information on the Internet and many reasons come to mind why the South Burnett region should not be included in the regulations as they are at present. I do not wish to repeat over and over what other landholders, important stakeholders and local politicians have already voiced but I will say science/clear facts and data lack greatly from our South Burnett region. The science is really questionable for our area, no water monitoring stations or water collection points and the closet

being some 180kms away at Mount Lawless. How can accurate science be achieved in the South Burnett in regards to Reef regulations? There is no accurate information present. Our land and water is a massive valuable resource that personally my family has taken very seriously over the generations. If we have not nurtured and cared for our land in ways to support, improve and restore we would not be farmers in the current day climate. We have so many regulations, fees, expenses in everyday operations that if our land is not looked after you are not able to survive in the rural industry. Statistics state that our region is above average for Australia in regards to mental health and self harm issues. A concerning fact and one which no doubt will increase if more and more regulations are put on landholders and rural business owners.

In closing I request that an in depth review is conducted about our South Burnett region being part of the regulations for Reef Protection. A removal of our area should be done immediately.

Yours faithfully,

## Margaret Lee-Madigan

