

Central&Western Beef Co Pty Ltd

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

14/03/2019

Acting Committee Secretary

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing expressing concern regarding the proposed regulations introduced into parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019.

The first time I heard about the Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was in a notification from Agforce on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, when it had already been introduced to Parliament. It is a Bill that will have implications for primary producers and with questionable new results for the Great Barrier Reef.

I have two cattle grazing operations that fall within one of the catchments.

It is a Bill that gives power to Government bodies to closely monitor our operations, an action that will lead to greater restrictions over time. Currently I am dealing with Vegetation Management laws that I do not understand and because of that I am finding it difficult to keep within the guidelines. I can see this new legislation keeping a lot of people employed monitoring Producers whilst actually adding nothing to the Economy or to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

Primary Producers and Small Business people are very important to Australia's economy, they work often for small monetary rewards and do not have finances to employ staff to keep them compliant filling out forms. We do not wilfully mismanage grazing or cropping land, we cannot stay in business if we keep our land in poor or degraded condition. Part of running a good business for horticulturists, cropping and animal grazing is managing land in good condition, it is part of the formula that needs to be managed to give an outcome that allows us to run that business.

What body is to decide what the proposed Minimum Practice Standards will be? When Primary Producers, small business owners, are restricted by 'minimum' standards, where is the allowance for innovation and does having imposed minimum standards work? I can see an Industry of Monitors and Finers, imposing rules on people who actually make a contribution to the growth of the country; Employment figures look good, businesses are stifled and the reef is not further protected.

Green movements and the media push this style of legislation with no heed of repercussions of the flow through of these decisions. A much more effective solution is to reward good primary production practices, and to offer training programs. To cut red tape so that valuable time is not spent trying to comply with regulations that do not offer a bottom line solution to, in this case, the Great Barrier Reef.

I am currently dealing with the threat of being fined under the Vegetation Management Legislation and trying to communicate and have corrected what I believe is incorrect mapping, and more importantly for me, understanding the mapping and requirements so that I can be certain of not infringing on the regulations again; I am thinking that the same sort of paper work and time is going to be spent on this new set of restrictions that do not produce a better outcome, in this case for the Great Barrier Reef.

I have an operation that is big enough to allow someone to be in the office 4 days a week, too much of that time complying with regulations. For smaller operations it just means that the small number of people in them are just pushed harder and harder. If it meant protection of the Great Barrier Reef or better financial outcomes then most would be happy, I do not see that as an outcome.

Yours sincerely

Inga Gibson ( Director)