

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: new water quality protection for GBR legislation
Date: Thursday, 14 March 2019 11:21:04 PM

Dear Committee,

As a recreational fisherman and reef business owner I strongly support the proposed Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

However I believe with the past history of both state and federal obvious lack of appropriate action, you must expand the bill and add "carrots and sticks" to all polluters to make sure there are major improvements to the present legislation that is currently in place and with out any enforeemnt.

Our Great Barrier Reef is an international icon and one of the world's most beautiful and biologically rich ecosystems on earth. It provides \$6.4 billion (to 52 billion nationally) to the economy every year and supports over 64,000 jobs.

We have know for over 20 years and had legislation since 2003 to deal with the sediment and fertilizer runoff from farms that is a major threat to inshore coral reefs and seagrass meadows of our Great Barrier Reef. This pollution can lead to devastating impacts to corals and seagrass ecosystems, critical habitats for threatened dugongs, turtles and many juvenile commercial fish species and my tourism business..

This Bill before the committee is critical to give the Reef the clean water it needs to help restore its health. I ask that it be urgently implemented and effectively enforced.

I strongly support the main elements of the Bill, which are:

- Catchment pollution targets that will give the Reef clean water.
- The ability to regulate all industries, all agriculture sectors and all catchments - the laws should apply to everyone so that progress can be made as rapidly and as equitably as possible.
- The introduction of minimum practice standards that limit nutrient and sediment run-off from sugar cane, grazing, bananas, grains and horticulture.
- The ability to collect essential data that can drive productivity improvements but also ensure full regulatory compliance.
- Ensuring there is no decline in water quality from new developments.

However, there are some key gaps in the new laws that must be addressed to give the Reef the resilience it needs in this time of crisis:

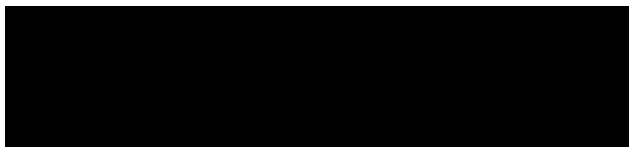
- The Bill does not address activities in high risk areas such as along creek beds and riparian zones, erodible soils and wetlands
- The Bill ensures there is no decline in water quality from new developments but this excludes new agricultural developments, which must also be considered.
- Aquaculture will continue to expand and there is now the know how and technology to have zero nutrient outflow from these farms and that should be legislated.
- Whilst these laws will stop outdated polluting practices in the catchment, the practice of dumping millions of tonnes of maintenance dredge spoil continues to be allowed.

Please also build in true compliance monitoring, incentive programs for positive measurable outcomes, and penalties for non compliance and ensure the long term funding to fix this most important issue.

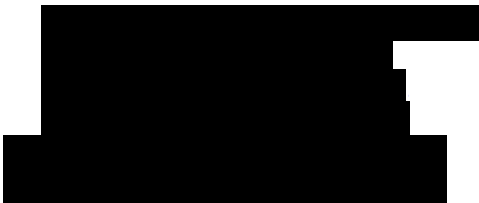
Thank you for accepting this submission.

We are depending on you to safeguard our previous Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, our businesses and our communities that depends on it.

Yours sincerely,
John Rumney



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Eco Certified Advanced Ecotourism / TQUAL

2017 Australia Day Citizen of the Year - Douglas Shire - John Rumney

2013 *Australia's Most Profound Wildlife Experience*:

Minke Whale Expeditions: 1st in Queensland, 3rd in the nation

2012 Ecotourism Australia Medal for "Individual Excellence" - John Rumney

2012 Runner-up / Planet Whale Global "Responsible Whale Watching Operator"

2011 National Geographic Traveler Magazine "50 Tours of a Lifetime"

2011 Tropical Innovations Awards: Eco Innovation & People's Choice

John Rumney

Managing Director



There are no *Barriers* too *Great* to saving our *Reefs!*