

## Malden Grazing



Acting Committee Secretary  
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environmental Committee  
Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

14/3/19

To Acting Committee Secretary, Innovation, Tourism Development and Environmental Committee,

We are writing with great concern regarding the proposed new regulations for graziers in reef catchment areas in Queensland. We have outlined our concerns regarding the new regulations below.

As graziers in the Burdekin catchment area we were unaware of the proposed regulations until contacted by an industry group, we believe this is extremely poor communication from the Queensland State Government. There have been no emails, posted correspondence or local community forums to consult with graziers, despite the Government having all our details from previous Environmental Risk Management Plans (ERMP) submitted in 2010. We have had no proposed minimum practise standards sent to us to review and believe that there has been no effort by the Queensland Government to attempt to advise or contact us regarding the proposed changes. The extremely short timeframe for submissions has added stress and confusion to already overwhelmed graziers and their families.

As demonstrated by previous onerous ERMP submissions, difficult and time consuming red tape and paperwork does little to safeguard the Great Barrier Reef. Consultation and information workshops for graziers to self regulate would be a much preferred method of achieving safeguards for the reef. Often too much red tape for time poor graziers who are currently experiencing one of the worst droughts on record, can hamper innovation and best practices.

Furthermore there has been no sediment runoff from our 40,000 acre property, located north of Alpha that has reached the reef, in the past 2 years. The Companion Creek that runs through our property has run only once during this period and it was water that fell upstream, with no localised heavy rainfall on our property. We are now headed into our third year of low rainfall and one of the worst droughts on record. Rotational grazing, destocking, dams to catch silt and land management practices such as fencing off waterways are all measures we ALREADY undertake to self regulate and safeguard the reef. There are several waterholes, weirs and the Burdekin Dam that our runoff water passes through before it arrives at the reef. These systems already catch sediment from our waterways.

There appears to have been no consideration to existing best management practices that are already in place. Likewise the excessive penalties for offenses have not considered how graziers will be informed of regulatory changes and advised so that they thoroughly understand the new regulations.

We strongly oppose the proposed Reef Protection Bill's provisions as an unnecessary impost on graziers introducing even more red tape, that will provide absolutely no benefit to the reef in terms of water quality. This onerous, ineffective legislation will impact our industry and our ability to do business.

We urge the Queensland State Government to consider the above concerns when introducing any new changes or regulations to the Burdekin catchment area.

Kind regards

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'AS' in a stylized, cursive font. The second signature on the right is 'Kristy Sparrow' in a more flowing, cursive script.

Alex & Kristy Sparrow  
Malden Grazing Company