



Desmond Bolton

14th March 2019

Acting Committee Secretary
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee
Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: REEF PROTECTION BILL

As an Ecologist and Farmer, I have concerns over the Reef Protection Bill introduced into parliament on the 27th February this year. Whilst as a farmer we want the reef protected and care for, I object to the current approach of trying to change behaviours through regulation.

This objection is based on the following points

- The legislative approach taken is not equitable with other industries.
- Another layer of ineffectual red tape.
- The use of minimum practice standards – that on different land type and with different timing can have the perverse outcome of impacting the reef.
- The use of a single set of standards assume a standard approach on how food is produced. There is great diversity in how food is produced and therefore great diversity is needed in how land, water and the environment are managed.
- The prescriptive management actions proposed are not appropriate for all management systems.
- It is simply nonsense to ask for a cropping area of 2ha's or greater to require a license and farm design
- What has soil suitability for food production got to do with protection of the reef and secondly how will a fee address this.
- This approach of regulating a single industry with new legislation prevents innovation. Innovation in land management is necessary so the industry can adapt to achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- It adds another layer of cost to an already struggling sector.



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Please note, I would have liked the opportunity to explain and provide further documentation as to how inappropriate the protection bill is. The time frame to respond has limited the detail of the response provided.

I would like the opportunity to formally speak to and address the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environmental Parliamentary Committee regarding these concerns.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmond Bolton".

Desmond Bolton

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