

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission on Environmental Protection (GBR Protection Measures) & Other Leg. Amendment Bill 2019  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 March 2019 12:46:58 PM

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Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my recommendations and give my thoughts on providing protection for one of our best National assets-

Make sure that these new recommendations are implemented and policed for the reef sake.

Agricultural chemicals -

must be monitored and reduced dramatically to have a positive effect on the environment

Water use-

Must be drastically reduced on all agricultural activities by reducing old practices of flood irrigating crops and produce. Farmers will end up with better yields under a more controlled watering methods. also when we do get heavy rains the land can absorb a lot more before it overflows into the waterways.

Buffer zones up to waterways and creek / rivers-

I was appalled to see cultivation right up to the edge of waterways with no filtering of water run off before inundated farm land run off full of chemicals ,fertilizers and sediment running straight into the waterways this is an appalling practice with the waterways brown with all forms of farm waste.

Provide a min 15-20 m riparian buffer is provided along all waterways acting as a filter to runoff water before the stream. The reef would benefit greatly. This buffer area would filter excess nutrients and chemicals before entering the water ways and then the reef.

We strongly support the proposed Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, however I believe there are key gaps.

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 the economy every year and supports over 64,000 jobs.

Sediment and fertiliser runoff from farms 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.

This Bill before the committee is critical to give the Reef the clean water it needs to help restore its health.

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.
- 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.

Thank you for accepting this submission! We are depending on you to safeguard our previous Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and all the life that depends on it.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Connell

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