

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

**Dear Sir/Madam**

I write as a primary producer who has only just become aware of the regulations that are being proposed for graziers and grain growers in reef catchments areas.

Of first concern is the timeframe with which this bill being pushed through so fast. Environmental concerns are a shared problem that require a collaborative approach, although it seems that there has been very limited opportunity for ALL of the parties involved to conduct an adequate consultation.

We would like to encourage the Government to take a lead, show respect for the agricultural industries that will be impacted and facilitate a planned collegial approach.

As it stands now; at no time have we seen the proposed "Minimum practice standards". How can producers understand and willingly comply with new laws and regulations when they have not been consulted and have no idea what is trying to be achieved?

It seems that the proposed legislation and regulations is a political response rather than a practical, workable solution. Primary producers are all about workable solutions, if it can't work in the real world – it's not a solution at all.

Specifically, in response to runoff from our properties adding to damage to the reef, farmers are a wealth of knowledge with years of experience working with their respective landholdings. The Government needs to embrace this grassroots knowledge and listen to the land holders. Effective land management including the introduction of weir and levies, in a voluntary self-regulated system could lead to improvements to the land and consequently the greater environment. Planning and implementing must involve those on the land. Year after year, we are the ones that see firsthand the impacts of drought and flood, over-growth and fire. Researchers and policy makers that focus on regulation, do so without a true connection with the areas and lack the local knowledge to consider innovative practices.

As a primary producer, I implore the Government to shelve the proposed legislation and instead engage with producers and landholders. Lets collaboratively agree on minimum standards of practice that will support producers and achieve the outcomes required for the protection and future of our land and the reef.

Heavy handed, one-sided regulation is not the answer.

Yours sincerely  
Robert Jackson

