

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

15 March 2019

Dear Acting Committee Secretary,

I am writing this submission due to the fact that I am completely and utterly disgusted with this Government's farmer bashing.

As a 39 year old farmer I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to be part of agriculture. Unfortunately I believe my next 40 years of farming are under threat from miss guided Politicians.

As a beef producer, I, like all other agricultural industries rely on soil health and the environment as number one. This proposed legislation will hinder my operations. For example; this season has been for us very similar to the early 90's. Our grass cover is beginning to reach a level lower than where it is in a normal season. Winter will be a threat to this grass. We are currently deciding if we will direct drill in oats seed into the existing pasture. The benefits of this sort of practice are outstanding. The oats crop will provide the extra cover for the grass and the soil over winter months, extra feed and mulch for the ground.

The oats crop also helps add to the photosynthesis of the paddock. Like the leaves on the tree, grass also serves to collect energy from sunlight and carbon dioxide from the air. Using this method in our farming business helps provide green feed in the winter and doubles the amount of carbon dioxide taken up in that paddock.

This legislation will stop our ability to plant this crop because we would first need to complete the regulatory requirements/paper work and then wait to be approved. This would result in delays and the planting window would be closed and the opportunity gone.

The bill explanatory notes say "As with all applications for an environmental authority for ERAs under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the administering authority has the power to refuse an application." It also states

The Bill will achieve its objectives through a regulatory framework that ensures:

• Producers move to standards that align with recognised benchmarks for agricultural industries, under the Paddock to Reef Water Quality Risk Framework, while maintaining productivity and profitability.

This legislation will hurt our productivity and our profitability and the sustainable management of our land.

Most family farms have a turnover of less than a million dollars annually. The fines to be imposed could well send a family business broke and the family farm lost, but you say productivity and profitability will be maintained. Maybe a foreign country will buy the farm and they will not care about the environment or the reef.

It is my belief that this legislation is just more red tape from Labour. The fines are revenue raising because the government has miss managed the peoples' money and now is broke. If we ran our business the same way we would be out of business.

The real sore point is a farmer will more than likely be guilty until we are able to prove our innocence. Where as a paedophile is innocent until the tax payer proves they are guilty. So somebody who violates a child and murders them has more rights than a farmer who has not complied with legislation that is purely red tape and a worse outcome for the environment.

SHAME ON YOU!

Sincerely Disgusted,

Mark Anger

