

Jeff & Lee Clews



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

15 March 2019

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

We write to express our concern and dismay at the reported regulations which will be enforced as a result of the recently introduced Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

Prior to receiving a phone call from a concerned colleague we had not heard of the Bill and had no idea of the serious ramifications for our livelihood and industry. To this day we have not seen the proposed minimum best practice standards and wonder whom was consulted to identify these standards.

Our grazing enterprise utilizes many measures as standard procedures to best manage our pasture, soil and water quality, thus reducing erosion and water runoff and in the long term, preserving the health of the Reef; many hundreds of kilometres from our home. So far is it in fact to the mouth of the Burdekin River from us, that 'our' water passes through numerous dams and weirs before blending with water from other catchments and more highly populated areas, to eventually reach the ocean.


Previous education campaigns by peak industry bodies have encouraged us to voluntarily implement many successful management strategies to assist in our self-regulated goals of improved pasture health and reduced water run-off. It needs to be noted that this has been very challenging of late. We are in our third failed wet season and life on the land is currently about stock survival and the reduction of herd numbers. Who better qualified to make these decisions than the men and women who own and run the properties, those who live and breath the situation everyday and aspire to hand the custodianship of their land to generations to come?

It concerns us that these legislative changes are not only being introduced in a very underhanded manner, the timing of "Bill" seems to ironically coincidental with the entire agricultural sector of Queensland being serendipitously under siege from one form of nature disaster or another.

The financial implications suggested for lack of compliance to regulatory changes introduced by the Bill are astronomical. In view of how little publicity the originally introduction of the Bill received we wonder how graziers are going to be sufficiently educated to comply with regulations and further red tape to avoid the excessive financial burden.

We urge the Queensland State Government to seriously consider our concerns before introducing further regulatory changes to Reef catchment areas.

Kind regards



Jeff and Lee Clews