


**From:**   
**To:** [Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019  
**Date:** Friday, 15 March 2019 4:09:26 PM

---

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

Dear Mr/Madam Secretary,

I write to you in respect of the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*.

Twenty-five years ago, the first Environmental Protection Act was passed by Queensland Parliament - a bill that my own father helped draft in his capacity as an environmental advisor within government. He continued to campaign for reform in agriculture in order to protect the GBR, both in government and after moving to the NGO sector, meeting with key stakeholders and big landowners throughout the state but particularly in the cane farming areas of Cairns which directly impacted the reef. He was roundly criticised for such an unpopular position, given the importance of farming to Queensland economy and the historical/cultural value in this traditionally pastoral state. Nevertheless, or perhaps as a result of tireless campaigning by my dad and others like him, runoff from farming is now widely recognised as a key contributor to coral bleaching and irrevocable damage to the reef - along with of course, rising sea temperatures caused by climate change.

Holding industry accountable - whether this is agriculture, mining or any other industry - is a very difficult task in this state, particularly outside the metropolitan areas. I have been in Brisbane in the morning seeing a surprisingly well-rounded coverage of negotiations with Adani on front page of the Courier Mail, and that afternoon seen a very different front page in Townsville - painting Labour as bound to 'greenies' and indifferent to the plight of the local economy. If anything, Labour has become hamstrung in its ability to effect progress for the environment while it attempts to retain - or claw back - the 'working class' vote. That's why this bill is so important. It is the first time this government has managed to resist the (regionally) popular sentiment and the urge to think in 2-3 year phases, and instead is thinking long-term in consideration of the future of Queensland's people (climate change and all environmental and conservation efforts will benefit *all* people, however, I am cognisant that is a harder case to make to the general public).

When I was 18, I voted for the ALP in my local, state and federal elections. That position changed after years of disappointments at weak environmental policy. This year, I believe Labour will give voters with a conscience something worth a vote.

Sincerely,

Eliane Yuille

