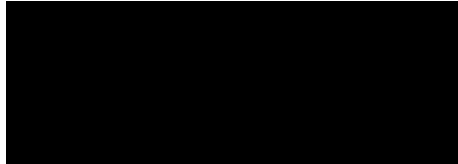




L A & G A Sellars



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

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: Reef Preservation Bill

I would like to make an objection to the exorbitant fines proposed to the landowners in the Reef Preservation Bill.

To hold landowners solely accountable for sediment run-off to the Barrier Reef is ludicrous, unfair and unaffordable. Fining landowners would take away their already stressed financial capacity to correct situations which are out of their control, caused by severe flooding or drought. A far more positive outcome would be to work with landowners to help them better manage difficult situations rather than a negative fining solution.

Yes, it is recognised by everybody the Great Barrier Reef certainly is worthy of preserving.

How can landowners be held solely responsible for the sediment movement onto the Barrier Reef when there are so many other stakeholders and contributors such as Oil Companies and their leases, CSG, Council and National Parks.

Will National Parks catastrophic destruction by fire which leaves the ground in a worse state than Classification "D" be assessed and accountable for their wilful destruction at the same level as rural landowners when it comes to fining. It is to be noted that these fires which have burnt millions of hectares in the Great Barrier Reef catchment zone, are not a **climate change** event, but a **manmade** event due to mismanagement and lack of foresight. In the last 2 months, I have personally contributed approximately 9 days of lost time to my business to help National Parks manage their fires in my area. It should be noted, this does not include the additional 5 days spent helping another landowner defend their property in the Lonesome National Park / Arcadia Valley fire.

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

In my position as a Road Advisory Group Member with Maranoa Regional Council, my sole aim is to improve Council's road drainage and design practices to reduce soil movement and erosion. The first step for change to occur, would be for Engineers to admit they have made a mistake in their design. I welcome any Government member to visit our area to try and help improve Council drainage and design practices and policies.

I make these statements based on:

- ✓ I am a 3rd generation Primary Producer,
- ✓ with 39 years' experience as a qualified diesel mechanic,
- ✓ the last 26 years as an Earthmoving Contractor concentrating on erosion control for landowners with the main aim to minimise soil loss by repairing roads, contour banks and fence lines.

I strongly object to the proposed Bill in it's entirety and respectfully request consideration for my points to abolish the Reef Preservation Bill.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Garrey', is written over a horizontal line on a light-colored background.

Garrey Sellars

14th March 2019