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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please consider this document my submission to the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (Reef Protection Bill).

I would like you to consider my responses to points raised in this Amendment bill as a series of dot point responses to the item proposed.

- **Load limits are set for sediment and nutrient across 35 sub-catchments in Reef.**

In the publication Carroll *et al* (2012)[1] there are only listed 4 monitoring sites for the whole of the Fitzroy catchment which is my location. This is inadequate to give a picture of the movement of sediments and nutriments especially in the coastal zones of this catchment. Potentially coastal catchments will be penalised for mining and farming activities in the drier western zones of the catchment.

Following the devastating rainfall in Cyclone Debbie there seemed to be no collation by the government recording the massive erosion in watersheds from the Clarke Range system. The river bank erosion on my land was unprecedented and moved far more soil that any landscape movement that may have been generated by stocking history or ground cover. Most of the bank damage was due to the undermining of large river bank trees and their subsequent impediment to water flow.

Figure 1. Stream bank damage resulting from Cyclone Debbie. Gouging around a large tree (left) and bank collapse causing large trees to fall into the creek during the flood (right).

Vegetation management prescriptions will ensure there will be much more stream bank erosion due to increased woody vegetation within the 50m zone and decreased vegetative ground cover in this zone. I do not want this erosion blamed on my grazing land management practises.

Since the demise of the QDPI Pasture research and Woodland ecology units the science of land management for grazing in Central Queensland and all forested grazed areas has stagnated. Standards set for land condition and pasture condition do not reflect the reality of forested country that has now been grazed for up to 160 years. For example Spear grass will not grow under canopy cover higher than 30% but much previously open woodland is now 50 to 60% canopy cover. Couches

and other stoloniferous grasses now dominate under woody expansion and will never achieve the biomass of the native open woodland grasses.

I also note that there is a lack of historical benchmarking of typical loads in all catchments. The erosion of my catchment region drained to the east by The Styx and to the west by Clark Creek and Lotus Creek was unprecedented in data collected since 1985 which seems to be the earliest point of reference.

There is published, external, anonymous, peer reviewed evidence to show that under normal rainfall events the contribution of Suspended sediments from flood waters to the Great Barrier Reef are less than resuspension of this fraction in the waters surrounding the reef by tidal action, (Orpin *et al* 2012).[2]

- **Significant fines for non-compliance. Wilfully contravening a Minimum Practice Standard is 1665 penalty units ($217,000). Other offences are 600 penalty units ($78,000).**

These fines are excessive and will probably be the thin end of the wedge as we have seen in fines for fence breaks under Vegetation Legislation.

I have undertaken BMP compliance training and while I appreciate the sentiments behind it I find the content to be more suited to a small, hobby landowner and suffers through targeted R and D. It then becomes a tick and flick window dressing exercise.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Dixie Nott

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Citations:

1.Carroll *et al* (2012) A Paddock to reef monitoring and modelling framework for the Great Barrier Reef: Paddock and catchment component. Marine Pollution Bulletin 65, 136–149

2. Orpin *et al* (2012) Exposure of inshore corals to suspended sediments due to wave-resuspension and river plumes in the central Great Barrier Reef: a reappraisal. . Continental Shelf Research, 47. pp. 55-67.