

# Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 Submission No 201

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Parliamentary Inquiry Process, Development and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures)  
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I have lived in Mackay for 38 years. During that time I have been involved with trying to encourage the Sugar industry to move to sustainable farming especially to reduce runoff of sediment, fertilizer and herbicides into the rivers and out to the Reef. We have spent many hours with Canegrowers Mackay since the 1980's and seen many growers doing the right thing. But the voluntary rules (ie self regulation) have not worked over a 30yr period as the runoff is as bad as ever. We saw at that time Queensland's worst mangrove dieback due to Diuron runoff from the canefields (the one catchment spared didnt have canegrowing in it).

So we need firm regulation with hefty fines to ensure all canegrowers adhere to the best practice that minimises runoff.

I support the new laws the Queensland Government has recently proposed (Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to ensure that the quality of water reaching the Reef is improved. The voluntary programs that have been in place for decades have been ineffective in reducing runoff. The new rules aren't about punishing farmers, they are about ensuring farmers know how much fertiliser is optimal for their land and applying no more than is necessary. That is going to be good for the Reef and it's also likely to save a lot of money for sugar farmers.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Williams

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