



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

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Proposed Reef Protection Bill

Firstly, I would like to express my shock to learn that this proposed legislation was to be introduced in such a rushed manner. I have only realised that the closing date for submissions was 15<sup>th</sup> March, and hope that this submission will be accepted.

Government is failing in its obligation to the community if it fails to allow sufficient time for submissions and consultation.

As graziers, we have no detail of the specific regulations that will control our management of our land. We need to consider these before we can make sensible submissions on this matter. The whole issue has been poorly promoted and there is considerable lack of publicity.

We as land holders wish to ensure the Reef is protected for future generations, however, there appears to be one law for the bush and none for the city. As major population centres and pollutants, cities and urban populations need to be part of this solution and not excluded.

We have successfully managed our property for more than 50 years, we have conservative stocking rates and know that we need to look after our land if it is to look after us and our cattle. Self-regulation has worked and can continue to work.

We are appalled at the supposed penalties to be imposed.

We are at the top of our catchment (the Auburn River which flows into the Burnett). The areas already indicated as requiring protection are dry gullies in spotted gum country. There is no regular nor even intermittent flows in these gullies. There would be no sediment reach the reef from our property. There are weirs and dams that capture any of this.

It appears obvious that this proposal is politically motivated, and not motivated by a genuine and practical intention to provide any lasting benefit for the Reef.

Yours faithfully,

James Anthony O'Neill & Alexandra Winter O'Neill

