

Abbey and Allan

To: itdec@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Submission for the Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures and Other Legislation Bill 2019 (Reef Protection Bill)

15/03/19

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

To who this may concern,

As a Landowner/Grazier, I do not agree with the proposed changes put forward in the Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (Reef Protection Bill). How can the government implement changes without educating landowners through due process? Not all landowners even know about Best Management Programs. Not all land owners have an environmental management plan. This in fact shows the lack of consultation and poor process by the government.

Below is some suggestions on what I find a unfair and unreasonable.

1. Implementation

- a. The three year implementation process is not possible. A three year education process to ensure people understand and have time to make the changes to accommodate for changes is what is needed. Everyone that is in these areas shall be enrolled into a Best Management Program (BMP) for education purposes.
- b. Consultation with all identified landowners of which are not against saving the reef (like my family) would beneficial other farming businesses to highlight and show how these journeys are a beneficial for all.

2. Understand what is currently happening

As a younger graziers we have and are adopting best management practices which include:-

- a. Riparian fencing - to date we have completed 8 kilometers.
- b. Land type fencing.
- c. Forage managements practices.

We have found that the BMP currently in place in our area is a process that is successful as it's an educational and self-assessed program. People that are in

the same industry that are like minded network together and make change. This all takes time, understanding, money and a lot of hard work. This does not have to be a political vote grab, it's happening already just continue to educate and promote BMP. The rural industry must own BMP as they understand the land and livestock.

3. Consultation

To achieve standards that are quoted by the government the following suggestions need to be rolled out.

- a. We need to be informed of the standards.
- b. Understand the standards.
- c. Be given a reasonable timeline to achieve the standards.
- d. Let the participates self-regulate.
- e. The government process shall provide audit tools to ensure farms can achieve compliance.

Landowners pay taxes and employee tax payers. We have brought the land and need to ensure our properties are sustainable and profitable. Each time there is a quick acting change/demand it takes us away from our paying business which costs us time and money. Therefore the time to implement changes needs to be over a period of time for a business to absorb non chargeable processes.

4. Penalties

The proposed penalties would reflect on a corporate business not a family operated farm. These penalties are excessive and will bankrupt family farms. There is no mention of education funding or assistance programs to avoid these penalties? Surely the government has an obligation to provide this....

5. Scope

Our question is, what is the government trying to achieve? Something that will work and be sustainable or something that will be unmanageable, unproductive and continues to get farmers/graziers off side? My observation is that this proposed changes to the Bill is about election campaign votes, not about our reef and our family's future.

Regards



Allan & Abbey Lucas

