

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Reef Regulations Bill
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Peter and Kate Waddell
[REDACTED]

Acting committee secretary
Innovation, tourism development and environment committee
Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000

22nd March 2019

To whom it may concern

We wish to lodge an objection to the Reef Regulations Bill. Firstly, we had not heard about it, except through AgForce, and to have no public consultation in the regions where this Bill it to be instigated is a gross neglect of your duties as public servants. The haste and secrecy associated with the presentation of the Bill to parliament, and the lack of industry consultation leads one to believe you have little to no respect for one of the state's largest economic contributors, the agricultural industry.

We are graziers in the Wet Tropics area, and consider ourselves to be environmentalists. If we weren't, our industry would not be viable or sustainable for future generations. We are constantly looking at ways to improve our grazing practices and land management skills. We have been involved in several projects with Terrain NRM, with the health of the reef at the forefront of these projects.

This bill does not aim to tackle water quality head on, but rather over-regulates instead of educates primary producers. Education is the greatest tool we have to protect the reef, not only now but well into the future. As you well know, people in primary industry are time poor. The Reef Regulations Bill will drown graziers and farmers in red tape and prevent them from addressing the real environmental issues associated with their enterprise and improving their practices. Regulation is not the answer.

The fines proposed for non-compliance with the Reef Regulations Bill are extreme, and will cripple many businesses. How have you justified this amount?

Primary industries already feel over regulated by bureaucracy; therefore, self-regulation and best management practices would be far more effective than more regulations. People will be considerably more receptive to proposals that work with them, not against them.

Thanking you in anticipation,

PH Waddell CA Waddell

Peter and Kate Waddell