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Working towards a sustainable and productive catchment

27 March 2019

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee (ITDEC)

Submission in relation to the ITDEC inquiry into the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

By email to ITDEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned Bill.

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) is an active Integrated Catchment Management organisation which has been working with the farming community to voluntarily adopt industry best practices for over 20 years. The MRCCC is overseen by a committee of representatives from 25 primary industry, government and community sectors with interests in sustainable primary industry and natural resource management.

The Mary River Catchment is the southernmost catchment to impact upon the Great Barrier Reef, and the MRCCC has been working with graziers to address erosion and sediment issues through Reef programs for the past 10 decade.

Overall, this proposed amendment bill will deliver minimum standards focused on groundcover, pasture cover etc based on the Wambiana groundcover-sediment loss trials. However, in the Mary River Catchment the sediment sources are derived predominantly from riverbank and gully erosion. Consequently the regulations will theoretically result in higher groundcover / pasture levels and improved grazing land management, but will not directly impact on the key sources of sediment for the MRC. Therefore it is imperative for the MRCCC to continue working voluntarily with producers using an integrated catchment management (ICM) cooperative approach to reduce sediment loads and reduce riverbank erosion in the Mary River Catchment.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Mackay
Chair
MRCCC

*The MRCCC gratefully acknowledges the support of
The Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Council and Gympie Regional Council,
the Australian Government Department of Environment, the Burnett Mary Regional Group, the Queensland Department
of Main Roads, the Department of Environment and Science, Seqwater, HQPlantations
and landholders throughout the Mary Catchment.*

DONATIONS TO THE MARY CATCHMENT PUBLIC FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE