

4 November 2019

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Greg Rossato and I have approximately 90 hectares of sugarcane land in Home Hill, North Queensland and supply Inkerman Mill. I feel compelled to write to this Inquiry to put my thoughts across regarding the processes and the implementation of reef regulations.

We (the farmers) are always striving to minimise any impact on the environment. I operate at, or above industry standard and am moving forward to becoming accredited for BMP. Sometimes you wonder whether it's worth it. A reason for this is these best management practices have been happening for around six to ten years, yet every time we get a report card on the reef it always seems that the situation is getting worse.

These report cards on the reef have seen some scientists come out against some of the findings in these reports. People like Dr Walter Starck, the late Bob Carter, Dr Ian Plimer, Dr Jennifer Morohassey and Dr Peter Ridd that these laws are unnecessary. I am no scientist but being a farmer whose livelihood is very much dependant on decisions being made about the reef, I would think that maybe there needs to be more done in this area to make sure the decisions being made on the reef are based on the best possible science. Unfortunately, ideology has taken over from the political end and this will only end up hurting more people. Expanding on the best possible science, I really think that anything in these reports is subject to proper independent reviewers. When so many jobs are on the line in all land-based industries adjacent to the reef, now is certainly the time to make sure these reports are accurate.

I really think the Government needs to give the time it agreed to originally for BMP to meet its targets. Canegrowers were tracking to meet those targets but the Queensland Government, under pressure from Green groups and UNESCO to downgrade the reef to "in danger", made the decision to act on laws that could affect the financial positions of some farmers.

In closing, I just want to re-iterate that when decisions are made in this manner, growers get very suspicious that the State Government is only appeasing conservationists which is to the detriment of Agriculture.

Yours sincerely

Greg Rossato