



Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

5 November 2019

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Inquiry into identification of leading practices in ensuring evidence-based regulation of farm practices that impact water quality outcomes in the Great Barrier Reef**

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is the lead charity for the Great Barrier Reef, raising funds and creating strategic partnerships that deliver high impact, science-based projects for the Reef. Our single purpose is to protect and restore the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.

The Reef Trust Partnership, a partnership between the Foundation and the Australian Government, includes \$201 million to contribute to efforts aimed at addressing water quality issues. Improving water quality is expected to play an important role in improving ecosystem resilience. The funding will be invested in priority areas, primarily to improve agricultural practices and restore degraded catchments. In investing these funds to achieve the greatest impact and benefit for the Reef, the Foundation is making decisions based on the priorities set out in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, which is a joint commitment of the Australian and Queensland governments.

In addition, the Foundation is being guided by the conclusions of the 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement on Land Use Impacts on Great Barrier Reef Water Quality and Ecosystem Condition. The Foundation considers the Scientific Consensus Statement the most comprehensive and authoritative work on the significance of water quality for the Reef. The Scientific Consensus Statement identifies the decline of marine water quality associated with run-off as a major cause of the poor state of many of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the Reef. The Foundation strongly supports the Scientific Consensus Statement.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Marsden  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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