Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6277 3511 Fax: +61 2 6277 5811 rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

My name is William Alfred Holt Hay better known as Bill Hay. I am an eighty year old retired aged care chaplain. I live in a Granny Flat behind my granddaughter's home

I am concerned about the laws that are about to be implemented on the sugar cane growers of Queensland. The farmers are already operating carefully in the use of fertilisers and chemicals to enhance their crops with little margin for profit with the price of sugar.

The requirements of the law will make it quite difficult to farm the land adequately. They are not being listened to but feel already judged as vandals to the environment. Why are they being dealt with in such an overbearing fashion?

It appears the Queensland Government has based its actions on scientific studies that say chemical runoff from farming is damaging the Great Barrier Reef. I have heard a scientific expert say the run off does not extend to the reef. The extent is so low it is not possible to get a reading of it.

It appears to me that the scientific studies the Government is following are unsubstantiated. When there is conflict in scientific results, there is obviously a need for further investigation to verify what is really happening.

I have noted that political correctness now days overrules truth. Our Government needs to be careful that they are not influenced by such ideology. More investigation to verify the truth of the situation is needed and therefore more time for this to be done.

I remain yours sincerely, William Alfred Holt Hay.