

6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Glen Cristaudo. At 43 years of age I am a fourth generation sugar cane farmer. I have been involved in the North Queensland sugar industry for most of my life, having helped out at an early age on the family farm. In all of these years I have seen many changes and innovations. These include the adoption of green cane harvesting and utilizing a trash blanket (in approximately 1986), farming practice changes, deregulation, choice of sugar marketing and rationalisation of the industry.

What I am now seeing, in my opinion, is overregulation. The reef regulation laws continue to create uncertainty. The laws govern farmers on how to grow a crop of cane and how much inputs are used. This seems at odds when compared to the experience acquired over decades by the growers in Queensland.

As a grower I care about the environment, water quality and the next generation. Wasted inputs, in my opinion, is not farming properly and not best practice. No grower wants to waste inputs unnecessarily as it is costly and inefficient.

These reef regulations will cause loss of production thus leading to less income with flow on effects to the local economy. Less tonnage being processed at the mills also determines the factory's viability. Outcomes derived from results that are driven from 85% modelling do not produce an accurate picture.

All of the cane growing regions have had both sugar and other crops growing since the 1860's. The first white settlers moved into north Queensland in 1861 to develop sugar plantations along the northern coast. The Queensland Government was desperate for income and supported the setting up of vast sugar plantations because it suited them at that time. I believe by working together as a team instead of overregulating then the desired outcomes can be achieved for both water quality and sustainable farming.

Yours sincerely,

Glen Cristaudo

Please consider this a written submission only