



RIS Ref: DES905-0918

File Ref: DOC18/1788

18 October 2018

Ms Sarah Hindmarsh  
Manager, Office of the Great Barrier Reef  
Department of Environment and Science  
Level 10, 400 George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Ms Hindmarsh

### **Broadening and Enhancing Reef Protection Regulations Decision Regulatory Impact Statement**

Thank you for your enquiry seeking advice on the adequacy of the *Broadening and enhancing Reef protection regulations* Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

#### **Release of the Consultation RIS**

The Department of Environment and Science (the Department) released the Consultation RIS for public consultation for 11 weeks in total. The RIS was initially released between 7 September and 3 November 2017, and again between 22 January and 19 February 2018, due to the 2017 Queensland State election interrupting the original consultation period. The Department received 51 submissions and then undertook further targeted consultation between May and September 2018.

#### **Preparation of the Decision RIS**

The Department advises that to address some stakeholder concerns, it has revised the recommended option from that presented in the Consultation RIS. The Department's new recommended option includes the following key elements:

- the introduction of catchment load limits for nutrients and sediments to apply in all Reef catchments
- the application of minimum practice standards, targeting nutrient and sediment pollution from key industries—for some sectors the timing before commencement has been extended
- the provision of an alternative pathway for producers to meet regulatory requirements through accreditation against a recognised Best Management Practice (BMP) program (or like program)
- requirement for advisers to provide advice about agricultural Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA) that is consistent with minimum standards or farm design standards. The Consultation RIS requirement for fertiliser sellers to keep and produce records on request of sales data has been removed
- introduction of a regulation making power created to provide the Minister with the ability to apply mandatory water quality offsets in the future
- new regulation making powers to require data from the agricultural sector. This was not included in the Consultation RIS
- requirement for new cropping activities to apply for an environmental authority (or a permit). This replaces the Consultation RIS proposal to introduce mandating offsets for new development



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- requirement on new industrial development to demonstrate it meets a 'no residual release' emission standard.

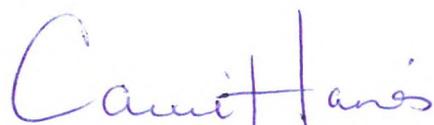
### **Assessment of the Decision RIS**

The Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission) has assessed the Department's Decision RIS and considers it adequately presents the results of consultation and details what matters have been amended following stakeholder responses. Given this, the Commission considers the Decision RIS is adequate to support the decision maker's consideration of the proposal.

Consistent with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation (the Guidelines) the final Decision RIS and this letter of adequacy will be published on the Commission's website following approval of the RIS release.

Please contact Dominic O'Neill, Senior Analyst, on (07) 3015 5164 should you require any additional information or guidance in relation to the above comments or the Guidelines in general.

Yours sincerely



**Carrie Haines**  
Team Leader