



RIS Ref: DEHP702-0717

File Ref: DOC17/2247

15 August 2017

Ms Sarah Hindmarsh
A/Manager, Office of the Great Barrier Reef
Department of the Environment and Heritage Protection
Level 10, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4101

Dear Ms Hindmarsh

Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Broadening and enhancing reef protection regulations

Thank you for your initial enquiry of 7 July 2017 and further information provided on 24 July 2017 and 10 August 2017, seeking advice on the adequacy of the "Broadening and enhancing reef protection regulations" Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

The Consultation RIS details the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's (the Department) proposal to implement a Great Barrier Reef protection regulation package under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution across the reef region.

The Department's proposal includes:

- establishing catchment load limits for nutrients and sediments at the river basin level across the catchments of Cape York, the Wet Tropics, Mackay Whitsundays, the Burdekin Dry Tropics, Fitzroy and the Burnett Mary
- broadening the current reef regulations for agricultural environmentally relevant activities (ERA) from the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday catchments to cover all reef catchments
- extending the regulations to cover all major agricultural activities that have a water quality impact on the reef
- providing producers with an alternative pathway for complying with regulated standards. Producers accredited against Best Management Practice programs or similar will be deemed as complying with the minimum regulatory standards
- requiring new, intensifying and expanding ERAs to avoid, mitigate or offset significant residual nutrient and sediment loads in situations where catchment load limits apply.

The Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission) notes the Department has provided detailed analysis to support the development of the proposals and all the impacts have been clearly presented and discussed in the Consultation RIS.



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The Commission has assessed the Department's Consultation RIS, and considers it adequate for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation with stakeholders will assist in further development of the proposal, including verifying the analysis provided and whether the proposal will have any further unforeseen adverse impacts on industry.

Consistent with The Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation (the Guidelines), the final Consultation RIS and this letter of adequacy will be published on the Commission's website once the RIS is approved for release. After consultation has concluded, a Decision RIS incorporating the consideration of public comments should be provided to the Commission for assessment before the matter is finally referred to Cabinet for decision.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Mackay', written in a cursive style.

Sean Mackay
Acting Team Leader