



# Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 19754/20  
Your Ref: A601108

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7140  
Email [environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

8 December 2020

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 11 September 2020 regarding Parliamentary Petition Nos. 3415-20 and 3344-20 and the interim response tabled on 8 October 2020 by the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, former Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, requesting the House to revoke the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* and establish an Office of Science Quality Assurance.

As you would know, I have since been appointed as the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs and now provide a final response to the Petitions.

It's disappointing that in these difficult times, when scientific evidence is essential, the LNP choose to attack this important work for political gain. The Palaszczuk Government makes policy decisions based on peer reviewed scientific evidence. The Member for Burnett's call for an "Office of Science Quality Assurance" would undermine science in this state.

The Great Barrier Reef contributes \$6 billion to the economy and supports 60,000 jobs.

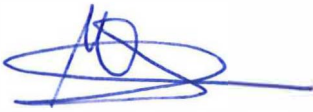
Poor water quality is negatively impacting the health of the Reef. Strengthening Reef protection regulations is one of a suite of initiatives to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution that adversely affects Reef health. The regulations are designed to be fair and balanced, addressing pollution from all its sources, whether it be from farming or other activities such as sewage treatment, waste disposal, mining activities, and land-based aquaculture.

The regulations are based on industry's own best management practices. These regulations aim to keep valuable nutrients and soil on-farm to support profitable and productive farming, while improving Reef water quality.

Over the last decade, more than \$120 million has been provided by the Queensland Government to the agricultural sector to improve water quality, while supporting productive farming. In addition to considerable investment into extension and education services and best management practice programs, this funding also includes \$10.1 million for the Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Meaghan Scanlon', with a stylized, overlapping loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meaghan Scanlon MP

**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef**  
**Minister for Science and Youth Affairs**