



Premier of Queensland  
Minister for Trade

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13 DEC 2019

Ms Sarah Hamylton  
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Dear Ms Hamylton

Thank you for your letter received on 10 December 2019 sharing your concerns about the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef).

I appreciate the creative effort involved in writing and recording the song 'Rock the Boat' to help raise awareness of the health of the Reef. I acknowledge your involvement and that of Kim Williams, Leah Gibbs, Rafael Cabral Carvalho and Lucas Ihlein, and thank you for sending me a copy of your song.

My Government accepts the scientific consensus on climate change and is committed to decisive action. The scientific consensus also confirms that Queensland's iconic Great Barrier Reef is particularly at risk from climate change. This reinforces the vital importance of reform and is why the Government has passed laws and committed \$330 million to improve the Great Barrier Reef's resilience through measures to improve water quality.

To ensure Queensland is playing its part to reduce global carbon emissions and meet the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement to halt global temperature increases to well below two degrees Celsius, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered a range of climate change initiatives. Under its Queensland Climate Transition Strategy, the Government has set a target to reach zero net emissions by 2050 with an interim target for at least a 30 per cent reduction in emissions on 2005 levels by 2030.

Queensland is already well down the path to meeting these targets. For example, significant progress has been made towards the Government's commitment of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, with an expected doubling of renewables from 2018 to 2020. In solar energy alone, Queensland has installed generating capacity of more than 4000 megawatts made up of solar (one in three households), commercial and large-scale projects.

My Government accepts that Queensland's iconic Reef is particularly at risk from climate change and the impacts of nutrient and sediment run-off from farming and industrial land use in Reef catchment areas. This reinforces the vital importance of reform and is why *Protect the Great Barrier Reef* is a Queensland Government priority under *Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities*. My Government has passed laws and committed \$330 million to improve the Reef's resilience. We are committed to meeting water quality targets to reduce nutrient and sediment run-off consistent with those set out in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*, a joint initiative of the Federal and Queensland Governments.

Queensland's new *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* (the Act) encourages farming and industrial practices that directly reduce pollution in catchment areas. The Act applies to all direct sources of pollution arising from commercially produced sugarcane, beef cattle grazing, banana growing, grains and horticulture production, industrial land uses, including sewage and water treatment plants, and mines that plan to release nutrients and sediments. Queensland's new vegetation management laws now protect an additional 405,000 hectares of vegetation in catchments flowing into the Reef.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR TRADE**