

I am a 59-year-old farmer who has grazing interests in the Fitzroy and Burdekin catchment as well as a mango farm on the Don river in Bowen. As a fourth generation farmer in Australia with 3 of my children on the land in our business I put a lot of importance on sustainability .We treasure our land as we are aware that healthy soils and good land condition are important for capturing carbon which adds to our moisture holding capacity hence less run off to the sea and more grass to feed to our livestock. It is important to note coastal run off does not enter the Great Barrier reef. The reef gets flushed daily from the Pacific Ocean.

As farmers we need to continually increase our knowledge and improve our farming practices to improve soils and hold rainfall on our land. We should be educating our young farmers

- . Not shutting our ag colleges down
- . Control burning public land and National Parkes.
- . When installing fire breaks and road drainage use practices that slow the water and spread it out not gather it up and speed it up. See Bowen Development road in Cereto. See Nairna national park on the Gregory Development road.
- . We have seen horrific fires in CQ in recent years. It appears bureaucrats think they can fight these fires from head office. This is not the case.
- . Fire break rules are difficult to understand. We have seen farmers fined for having a fire break too wide. Farmers are reluctant to build fire breaks as they fear the fines.
- . State Government demanding rural volunteer fire fighters have a Blue Card is Ridiculous.
- . Trigger mapping constructed by Bureaucrats with no knowledge and no inspection of the sight is an erosion of property rights and common sense.
- . Unreasonable fees for land clearing permits.
- . Claims the GB Reef is in danger has damaged our tourist industry
- . Failure to address shark and crocodile numbers have damaged our fisheries and tourist industries.
- . Unreasonable rules for professional fishermen that cause waste and financial hardship.
- . I have fished around Bowen for a number of years and sharks are a problem. From my farm I can see Abbot point coal loading facility and have never had coal dust. Have fished it and it is pristine.
- . Farmers and fishermen do not need bureaucrats making rules that are difficult to follow and likely to cause financial problems.
- . The biggest problem doing business in Australia is local, state and federal government.

. If we lose our primary industries, we will be relying on food fibre and energy that we will not be able to afford or control.

. Professor Richard Kingsford director of the centre of Ecosystem science stated on ABC News that the fresh water rivers, the fresh water they put into the marine ecosystems is critical, it brings nutrients and sediments that are really important to the Great Barrier reef. Scientists can't have it both ways.

. We need to check the science.

. Have a look at how our river deltas were formed. Yes silt piled up over thousands of years.

Cheers Greg Ashton