

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 326

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Program: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Topic: Land clearing

Hansard Page:

Question Date: 6 March 2017

Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

Regarding comments on land clearing, is it true that farm landowners are the best guardians for protecting soil run-off and excess chemicals and fertilisers running off farmland and into creeks and out to the GBR?

Answer:

The Government supports landholders and industry to achieve improved farm management in Great Barrier Reef catchments. Such improvements benefit the landholders' business, as well as the environment.

Best Management Practice ('BMP') programs such as Smartcane BMP and Grazing BMP were designed by industry to allow land managers to voluntarily take measures that will improve reef water quality, whilst also improving industry sustainability and farm gate returns.

Results from the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Report Card 2015 show the need to accelerate the rate of Best Management Practice adoption by all industries.

Beyond Best Management Practices, a concerted drive towards innovation is required to meet Reef Water Quality Protection Plan targets.

The Queensland Government is implementing the Reef Protection Regulations to ensure land managers who are unwilling to engage in BMP programs also improve their management practices.