

REEF PROTECTION REGULATIONS

PRA maintains the Reef Regulations are an unnecessary imposition. The following FYI is about the regulations compulsory requirements

Compliance: Compulsory Audits

This affects your business if you are a Grazier in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions from 1/12/2022

Bare ground visible in satellite imagery, may target your property for audit

It is expected every enterprise will eventually be audited

Police powers will be used if auditor entry to property is refused



Tips for handling an audit

- ❖ A site specific property visit should at a time suitable for you and you should be made aware of the issue that has triggered the audit
- ❖ Ensure audit vehicle has been washed down and complies with your biosecurity plan
- ❖ Be polite but reserved. Do not engage in small talk
- ❖ Do not allow auditors into your house or garden, you are not required to by law
- ❖ Exercise caution when justifying your farm practices. Compliance officers will probably have limited knowledge of primary production. They have the power to issue compliance notices followed by prosecution and fines for unresolved issues
- ❖ Compliance officers have a brief to observe and alert other departments of environmental issues that may exist on your land

Tips on handling an audit

- ❖ Compliance officers are supposed to provide a written report on the audit. It would be best if landowners responded with their remediation plans to the report not, ad hoc plans on the day
- ❖ If you don't have updated records of relevant activities an appropriate excuse is "they are kept off site".
- ❖ You can negotiate a suitable time to hand them over
- ❖ If you have employed a consultant they may want details and you are obliged to tell them

Independent Scientists: Research Findings on GB

Dr Alison Jones

“I am unaware of studies identifying sediment from anthropogenic sources versus re-suspension and natural erosion processes that have been occurring for millions of years”

Dr Andrew Brooks

“rather than all of the slopes across the catchment contributing the sediment ... the primary culprits are river bank and gully.... we must know the historical rate before we can apportion yields to present land management”

Dr. Piers Larcombe, Dr. Peter Ridd and Dr. Walter Starck

Are not convinced there is anything wrong with the water quality in the GBR



Present Coral Cover on GBR

- ❖ AIMS measurements in 2021 and 2022 record the highest values of coral cover since recording began
- ❖ Important to note 95% of the GBR is many km from land. 5% of the GBR is inshore and likely to be reached by river borne sediment
- ❖ Experiments conducted to measure contamination from fertiliser, herbicides or other agricultural chemicals were unable to find quantifiable amounts in the GBR lagoon.
- ❖ Surveys reporting damage like bleaching, are aerial at 150m above GBR
- ❖ Actual underwater surveys are not routinely undertaken
- ❖ Reports, and modelling, rather than replicated science, has been used to justify legislation

