



QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

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15 February 2017

Mr Chris Murphy
Queensland Major Projects Section
Assessment (QLD, VIC, TAS) and Sea Dumping Branch
Department of Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: Chris.Murphy@environment.gov.au

Dear Mr Murphy,

Re: Proposed Approval EPBC 2009/5173

The Queensland Farmers' Federation received correspondence from the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, dated 1 February 2017 about the proposed decision on the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) referral of the raising of Eden Bann Weir and construction of Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Minister's proposed decision. QFF supports the proposal to approve the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project. It is evident from the Proposed Approval that its intent is to streamline the regulation of water quality through water boards to meet recognised monitoring and reporting standards. In response to the Proposed Approval, QFF raises the following concerns:

- The broad wording of the condition leaves open the opportunity for significant duplication in the promotion of responsible land management practices on farms. Industry led, voluntary best management practices, such as Grazing BMP and SmartCane are a cornerstone of the Reef 2050 Plan to encourage on-farm practice change to improve water quality.
- The impact on pricing the proposed conditions may have on increased demand for additional water.
- The commercial flow-on effects the proposed conditions may have on irrigators.
- The availability and use of new knowledge to continue to guide the monitoring of the water quality impacts of users other than irrigated agriculture.
- The potential for water quality impacts to be generated by users other than irrigated agriculture.

These concerns must be adequately addressed to ensure their impact on irrigators is minimal.

If you require further clarification or have questions about this feedback, please contact Adam Knapp on (07) 3837 4720 or email adam@qff.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Travis Tobin
Chief Executive Officer

The united voice of intensive agriculture in Queensland

