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GREAT BARRIER REEF STUDY  
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION  
LOCKED BAR 2, COLLINS ST EAST  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I apologise for the handwriting but am on holidays away from my computer. I will list my comments/questions in dot point form I trust this will be OK.

- the catchment area in Figure 1 does not include the Burrun of Mary rivers, but Figure 4.1 includes the Wide Bay Burnett & various tables (eg. 2.1, 2.2) also include the Burrun of Mary rivers. Are these two catchments included or not?
- page XXXVI talks about 'well designed policies'. What economic incentives are being considered? Economic pressure on farmers include the need to have a cash flow to keep the bank manager happy; the area of land which they farm may be too small to be economic thus forcing them to continually crop when the land/soil needs improvement such as green manure crops etc.

- the adoption of better farming systems will only take place with economic security for the farming practice. Reduced stocking rates to reduce bare soil and subsequent erosion requires <sup>an</sup> overall and long-term assessment of the whole system. Any restructuring of a particular industry eg sugar cane must address the socio-economic issues as well as the biophysical.
- p146 Section 7.1 - reasonable approach as long as agriculture perse is not singled out as the major villain, and the industries concerned are kept informed of each step in the process. Work with them. Co-operative approach.
- better integrated policies may be more effective if properly designed and administered. A state-wide riparian area clearing/protection/re-vegetation etc policy with legislatures 'teeth' to enforce would help, but farmers cannot do it on their own. They require economic support.
- p147 Section 7.3 - ranking of options is OK as long as their impact on the industry/landowner is not draconian/excessive. The government needs to provide on-going funding/support for catchment officers to help the community implement many of the policies/issues already identified in many catchment strategy documents in the areas of Land Management & Water Quality etc.

• incentives to take poor quality land out of production  
and return it to permanent or other ~~use~~ materials  
use that does not induce erosion and land  
degradation would be helpful. This may be  
combined with management covenants etc to  
make better use of limited government funds if  
older growers for example are being encouraged  
to lease the land due to economic circumstances.  
ie pay them a management fee to stay on the land  
and manage a 'better' farming option instead of  
simply paying them to leave or paying the dole.

I trust these few comments will be of some help.

Please contact me if you require any clarification.

Regards  
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