

## **Submission to the Productivity Commission**

**On**

### **The Economic Importance of Industries in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Catchment and the Cost and Benefits of Actions to Address Declining Water Quality Entering the GBR Lagoon**

As the major regional centre in the Fitzroy River Catchment, it is important to the Rockhampton community that industries such as including beef, mining, agriculture, tourism, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, mineral processing and horticulture continue to develop throughout the region. These industries are the very reason many communities exist and as such are important to secondary industries such as retail, professional services and government agencies.

Rockhampton City Council officers are keen to ensure that the Council and Region is kept abreast of the development of measures to address water quality and their impact in relation to the economy and social infrastructure of the region.

Short timeframes for consultation do not permit research and the inclusion of detailed data, supporting evidence or documentation.

In the absence of any data it is considered imperative that the Productivity Commission undertakes a more thorough investigation of the social and economic effects upon Rockhampton and/or Fitzroy regional communities.

Careful consideration needs to be given in terms of funding for industry to meet targets set. It is imperative that these target will need to be met in order to protect this World Heritage area however there is also the need to foster and create competitive industries in these regional areas of Queensland. The “imposition” created by the setting of stringent water quality targets should be balanced with investment from State Federal Governments so not discourage development in areas within the arbitrary boundaries of the GBR lagoon catchment.

These views are from Officers of the Rockhampton City Council’s Environmental Services section and do not necessarily represent the views of the Council and its elected representatives.

Yours faithfully

Alan Shaw  
Environmental Projects Officer