

THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF QLD.

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**PRESIDENT :
SECRETARY :**

Great Barrier Reef Study
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

8TH December

Dear Commissioners,

Thankyou for the copy of the Draft Research Report on "Industries in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment and Measures to address Declining Water Quality". It provides a great deal of interesting data that takes considerable effort to interpret. Therefore we would just like to make a few additional comments on the Report's conclusion.

We support in principal the proposed approach outlined on page 145 as we feel that the area of greatest concern is the Port Douglas to Hinchinbrook area and the industries targeted for reduction of pollutant discharges. A combination of approaches is needed to influence the practices of these industries. Education, Regulation and enforcement and perhaps some financial incentive are all necessary to effect change.

Our concern is that the active lobbying of some industries is to evade the responsibility for their practices. We are also concerned that point sources should not be simply sidelined by any new policies or regulations because there is a degree of regulation already operating. For example, the effects of acid sulphate run off from inappropriate coastal earthworks is relatively well documented and yet this does not prevent point sources from conducting such works. Both aquaculture and marina developments are good examples of this.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment further on the report. We look forward to the final report and the implementation of some effective policies by the Federal and State Government.

Yours faithfully,

Suzanne Smith (Hon.Sec.)