

BACKGROUND TO DR PETER RIDD SPEAKING TOUR

Dr Peter Ridd: 0497 900 035



"There's some absolute rubbish being spoken about the reef and people's livelihoods are being put in jeopardy. If nobody will stand up, then this is just going to go on and on and on. It has to be stopped." – Dr Peter Ridd, Geophysicist and Great Barrier Reef world expert

"...the mission of these institutions must undoubtedly be the search for knowledge which leads to a quest for the truth. In reality, intellectual freedom is the cornerstone of this core mission of all institutions of higher learning." Judge Salvatore Vasta, Federal Circuit Court of Australia, April 2019.

GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD EXPERT DR PETER RIDD JOINS FARMERS' FIGHT

WORLD-RENOWNED geophysicist Dr Peter Ridd is joining Queensland Farmers, Graziers and Growers fighting for their livelihoods in the face of increasing Palaszczuk Government regulation around the Great Barrier Reef.

Dr Ridd will start a speaking tour in Bundaberg on 12 August and continue up the coast ending in Cairns on 20 August, providing expert evidence that further regulations to protect the Reef are not needed.

The lecture is titled: **"How reliable is the science demonstrating damage to the Great Barrier Reef? The need for better quality control."**

Dr Ridd shot to fame after being sacked by James Cook University in Townsville for barnstorming the myths around the Reef being degraded. In April, Judge Vasta of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, ruled the sacking was unlawful.

He has said: "As I have been stating clearly for some time now, the scare stories about the Great Barrier Reef started in the 1960s when scientists first began work on the Reef. Since then, they have been crying wolf."

How reliable is the science demonstrating damage to the Great Barrier Reef?

The need for better quality control

Date: Thursday 15th August 2019

Where: Ayr Showgrounds

Time: 6.45 for 7pm start

Cost: Free

Dr Ridd also has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DrPeterRidd

“But, to misquote Oscar Wilde, to exaggerate once is a misfortune, to do it twice looks like carelessness, but to do so repeatedly looks like unforgiveable systemic unreliability by some of our major scientific organisations.”

Dr Ridd has warned against trusting claims of Reef damage by the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, both of which are government funded.

The speaking tour comes after the Palaszczuk Government introduced the *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* into Parliament in February this year. The proposed stepping up of what has been branded unnecessary red tape would hit farmers, graziers and growers across a wide range of industries, including tourism and fishing, and in six Reef catchment areas including, surprisingly the previously excluded, Burnett Mary.

The lecture, to be held at the Show Grounds in Ayr will lay out the evidence around the continued health and ongoing growth of the Great Barrier Reef.

Dr Ridd said: “The Reef is actually in great order. So, are farmers really killing the Great Barrier Reef through run-off of pesticides and fertilisers, and mud in flood periods? No. There is no mud on the Reef where 99% of our corals live. It is all sparkling white coral sand. The water quality of the 3000 reefs of the Reef is as sparkling blue and pure as the Pacific Ocean. Since reliable records began, the amount of coral on the Reef and the coral growth rate has not declined. Much of the Science of the Reef has not been properly checked, tested, or replicated.”

We are challenging the State Government to ensure legislation and remediation funds are being most appropriately directed to maximise the benefit for the Great Barrier Reef.

Other Speaking Dates and Venues

Bundaberg:	5.30pm, Monday 12 th August, Moncrieff Theatre
Mackay:	7pm Wednesday 14 th August, Western Suburbs Rugby League Football 54 Branscombe Road
Ayr:	7pm, Thursday 15 th August, Ayr Show Grounds
Ingham:	7pm, Friday 16 th August, Noorla Bowls Club
Innisfail:	7pm, Monday 19 th August, The Con Theatre
Cairns:	7 pm Tuesday 20 th August, Cazalys 344 Mulgrave Road
Townsville:	TBA