

Email to members –

Alternate method to assist with compliance of Reef Protection Regulations

Members,

Please find **attached** below information the Board has received from ECS of a method to meet compliance obligations under the Reef Protection Regs.

The ECS methodology interested the Board, as the program seeks to achieve:

1. An easy method to keep fertiliser and spray records;
2. A means to monitor water quality;
3. Added bonus – incorporation of WorkPlace Health and Safety procedures specifically for sugar cane farming.

The Board has the view this method that includes collection of water quality data is vital in demonstrating to the State Government that tail water does not contain high levels of nutrients. The data has the potential to change the discussion with the State Government regarding run-off of nutrients from farms into water courses and the GBR.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or ECS (contact details below) should you wish to discuss further or have any queries.

Regards,
Allan Parker
KCGO Manager

Email from Mr Peter Corica (ECS Civil Services) -

We have finalised our preparation and are ready to support farmers in their efforts to become compliant with State and Federal regulations that influence the regions farming operations in relation to ERA's which are in force in your area.

Initially, we will sign off on farmers ability to complete their own field-testing requirements under the regulations so that they are able to become self-managed and self-regulated, with the ability to record recognised test results with recognised field-testing equipment, providing them with accurate field data, should that data ever be scrutinised in the future. The process and system that we have created, will bring farmers into line with the same requirements that exist across all other industries that work with an ERA, it's something that has been long overdue, and we have made it cost effective and easy for the farming industry to adopt.

It is our plan to visit the district initially as the level of interest grows and run a short introduction and course to signoff in groups of between 10 and 20 farmers at a time, the more that show up to be a part of it, the more cost effective the process will be, we're here to help them.

Our support will help to ensure farmers are correctly recording:

- 1. Water Quality into and out of their farms**
- 2. Fertilizer Inputs**
- 3. Chemical applications**

Each of the above will be specifically setup for each farmer, and not a generic one size fits all. If there are particular issues or constraints on a farm, we will ensure that it is taken into consideration.

In addition to this support, we also have a system in place to provide (at no extra monthly cost), Safe Work Method Statements for any operations where a contractor or visitor executes work on the farmers property, providing compliance with Workplace Health and Safety requirements that are currently not recorded well on some farmers properties, if at all.

We are happy to discuss the system that we have created with farmers, with the knowledge that it is not our intent to be regularly on the farms, rather empowering farmers to manage their own farms without interference or outside governance, having us on call if and when they need the support.

Our service is not funded by any Government Grants or sponsorship, nor are we affiliated with any other organisations, and it shall remain that way. The system that we have setup was based on my own verbal commitment some 18 months to 2 years ago to farmers, and we are now offering it the support without any outside influences to ensure that that farmers have the support they need, when they need it.

If we can help any further, please let me know.

Kind regards

Peter Corica
Managing Director



T 07 3380 5450 | E admin@ecscivilservices.com.au

A Unit 1, 1-5 Elayne Street, Underwood, QLD, 4119

