



**Media Release - Industrial Feedlots Threaten Fitzroy Water Quality  
1 July 2010**

Capricorn Conservation Council expresses grave concerns for the loss water quality and decline to overall Fitzroy River and Reef health following the release of plans under the Fitzroy Agricultural Precinct. This proposes industrial feedlots for around half a million cattle a year as announced by Tim Mulherin Minister Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland.

Opening up the lower Fitzroy region to eight industrial scale feedlots, each holding 15000 head of cattle, comes on top of other major impacts to the catchment health of the Fitzroy. Industrial scale feedlots create a need for large areas of irrigated cropping land to provide the grain and other fodder. This means a much larger area of cultivated land within the Fitzroy catchment creating the danger of significant increase in sediment entering the Barrier Reef Lagoon.

Despite the best intentions there is no system which guarantees that the massive amount of waste produced (manure and urine) can be prevented from being washed into the river during seasonal rain events or major river floods. The Fitzroy River has huge variation in annual flows. The proposal involves building the large Rookwood Weir, the raising of Eden Bann weir and possibly the Fitzroy Barrage. Apart from eliminating what remains of viable fish passage in the river, these water projects would inundate large areas of fertile river land, flood remaining corridors of healthy riparian vegetation and create a sterile aquatic habitat.

The people of the expanding Rockhampton region need a reliable supply of quality water plus the negative impact of industrial scale feedlots on the Great Barrier Reef is of grave concern.

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