



BFA MEDIA RELEASE

To: Chief of Staff / News Editor

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## **“PROTECT THE REEF, PROTECT YOUR FARM’S FUTURE”**

### **SOIL HEALTH EXPERTS AND BIOLOGICAL FARMERS CALL ON QLD FARMERS TO JOIN FIGHT TO SAVE AUSTRALIA’S ICONIC GREAT BARRIER REEF**

Australia’s biological and organic farmers’ representative group, Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA), is urging farmers along Queensland’s east coast to join the fight to save the iconic Great Barrier Reef by making the switch to more natural farming techniques -- at the same time safeguarding future farming profitability.

This follows the Consensus Statement of Climate Change and Coral Reef, signed by 2,500 of the world’s top marine researchers and released at this week’s International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns.

“Farmers from Bundaberg to Cooktown and up to several hundred kilometres inland can play a key role in protecting the future of the Great Barrier Reef,” according to BFA.

“We’re urging farmers to take another look at naturally-based farming systems such as biological farming and are bringing some of the United States’ leading soil health researchers and consultants to Queensland to show us how,” said BFA spokesperson and soil health consultant Greg Paynter.

“It’s the two birds with one stone approach. The reef will benefit from reduced run-off and pollutants from the land and farmers will benefit from healthier soils and a more profitable bottom line,” he said.

The Consensus Statement calls for urgent action to save the world’s reefs. Local impacts from land is identified as a major contributor to degradation. The Statement comes on the back of UNESCO’s recent report putting Australia on notice to change its approach to coastal development at the Great Barrier Reef or risk World Heritage status.

“Biological farming reduces the risk of toxins flowing into waterways. In addition, soil health is enhanced and run-off and embedded nutrient loss can be reduced by up to 60%,” said Greg.

“It also increases productivity and nutrient levels. For example, biological farming systems have recently been shown to increase sugar cane tonnage by over 40%, with higher sugar content,” he said.

To present the latest in biological farming techniques, BFA is hosting a Biological Roadshow in Bundaberg on 19 July with leading US soil health expert referred to as the ‘father of biological farming’ Gary Zimmer and researcher and ecologist Leilani Zimmer-Durand.

Visit [www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au) for bookings.

More Info: Melody Nalatu – Evoke Communications, m. 0408 928 229

For Interviews: Greg Paynter – BFA spokesperson and soil health consultant, m. 0424 092 064