

Submission to Senate Inquiry: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bioregional Plans) Bill 2011

Dear Senators

I write to support this Bill to restore the right of my elected politician to vote on Bioplanning Regions .

I have been a recreational fisherman since I was 4 years old and it is becoming increasingly apparent that my children are not going to enjoy the same freedoms as I did due to over regulation and closures being driven by green minority groups rather than scientific evidence. My involvement in recreational fishing has led to my love for the outdoors and sense of ownership for the environment. It led me to gain a degree in marine biology and a job with the Fisheries department of Queensland. It worries me greatly that the power to close vast areas of ocean to fishing is controlled by a single person who is undoubtedly influenced by minority groups who hold the balance of power in a minority government.

I support sustainable fishing. I have a very solid understanding of Fisheries management principles and fully support tighter bag limits and well researched size limits to ensure a sustainable fishery. I also support the implementation of well researched, representative green zones which also allow for access by all user groups. However I feel, in North Queensland at least, that the current restrictions are more than enough to protect the resource from the impacts of fishing and to introduce more will not solve any of the future problems. There are now more significant issues that will have a greater impact on stock viability,. Further closures are not the answer and we as members of a democracy deserve the right to have our say on any future restrictions, not have them thrust upon us with no consultation or at best lip service.

I'm concerned that \ lobby groups like PEW WWF and AMCS seem to get access to Ministers and control of what happens. The Department does not consult us or simply ignores what we have to say. I feel that democracy has been lost and further more my faith in the Labour party has gone with it. I along with all labour supporters that I know who also fish, are so disenfranchised with this government that at the next election we will do what I never thought we would and vote LNP. This is the last chance I will give labour, if this falls thru so does my vote- for good. Fishermen (and there are a lot of us) will not forget this if it is swept under the carpet.

Losing access to OUR waterways means jobs industry my lifestyle our lifestyle the joy of family fishing and the future generation's love for and stewardship of the marine environment.

Yours sincerely
Cameron Talbot