

3/18/2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you with regards to Senator Ron Boswell's Submission to the Senate enquiry pertaining to the creation of Marine Parks across Australia.

As an avid angler, informed and voting Australian citizen, I will go so far as to demand that any future Marine Parks' introduction and approval not be held solely in the hands of the Environment Minister. As any prospective marine parks will affect ALL Australians, I think it is only fair that each electorate get their say in the form of elected MP's voting for/against any new Marine Parks. It is only fair, that those most affected by any future marine parks get to have a say through their local member on whether or not the parks are justifiable and just how much it will affect the community at large in regards to social and economic losses.

Without the ability for all MP's to vote on every piece of legislation it only leaves the sitting Government and Minister open to corruption and diminishes the freedom and democracy many Australians have fought and died for, which will breed contempt and dissent for the Australian Government among the population.

Also of note is the Government's lack of public consultation in regards to Marine Parks. The relevant information is often skewed towards a biased opinion and any scientific studies, data and evidence are either non-existent or hidden from public viewing until the Minister has given their approval of the plan. Consultation is often held and the public is given a chance to speak, however, never, not once has anything the public majority been given any consideration in regards to Marine Parks. I urge this Senate Committee to form an investigation and review into the current consultation practices of the Government and to oversee new, fairer consultation processes whereby the public are given adequate notice and information, this would include making any and all relevant scientific studies public and available for viewing and evaluation.

Sincerely

Scott Thompson  
Recreational Fisherman