

*7th September 2008
The Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment,
Communications and the Arts*

**SUBMISSION On,
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK & OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2008.**

I would like this as a record of my disapproval of the proposed changes/amendments to the above mentioned legislation.

I feel strongly that they are aimed solely at increasing the power GBRMPA has over every day people pursuing Australia's number one recreational activity, and as such could be considered as not being in "Good Spirit" and therefore of poor judgment and basis.

I sincerely ask that you consider my objection in particular to the following items;

Criminal Convictions for fishing in "Closed Areas"

It is absurd to apply a criminal conviction to such an offence as it is so inherently floored due to the inability to accurately ascertain where many of these areas are in the first place! You would need a million dollars worth of equipment and a degree in rocket science to even get close in most areas!

Please dispense with these convictions!

Inspection Powers

This is a clear abuse of power and breach of common sense. Do we really need GBRMPA inspectors frisking Mum and Dad in front of their family! What exactly is GBRMPA trying to achieve? Even a blind man can see that this is poor policy!

Please dispense with these powers!

Definition of Fishing

Yet another very poor piece of regulation. I believe the proposed amendment to be far too broad in definition which will only further the confusion created particularly by the introduction of the "Green Zones" and will likely lead to wrongful prosecutions. As submitted, just by having one piece of fishing equipment stored onboard a pleasurable day out with the family could end with several GBMPA officers climbing all over your vessel trying to find a single piece of fishing equipment.

What GBRMPA is saying is that if I stop my vessel in a closed area to let my children watch whales or dolphins play and I leave my depth sounder turned on or a handline in

a side compartment I will be in breach of the new amendment and face a conviction and/or fine, how sir is that fair?

A much simpler definition such as "In the actual act of rigging, baiting, with fishing equipment in the water or actively catching fish" would be far less confusion.

"Scientific Fact" V "Precautionary Principle"

I am also very concerned about the change from "scientific fact" to "precautionary principle". Whilst it could be seen as a tool to prevent over fishing and environmental degradation it is more likely to be used as a blatant means of imposing **ANY** form of regulation upon the good people of Australia with absolutely zero facts to back it up.

It opens the door for minority environmental "terrorist type" groups to lobby for draconian rules, regulations and legislation without a shred of scientific fact that could have hugely damaging impacts on the social and economic benefits currently created from recreational and charter fishing activities.

My Conclusion

Senator, I am a proud father of two beautiful girls and work hard so that I can enjoy the simple pleasure I get from taking my family for a day on the water. Unfortunately GBRPMA has already eroded that pleasure by the implementation of a very poorly researched, constructed and implemented decision to put in place Green and Yellow zones.

I sincerely hope that the wonderful assets we have along this magnificent coastline of ours can be preserved and perhaps enhanced for future generations. However, these sorts of proposed changes will only lead to further disenchantment, disassociation and frustration amongst a very large proportion of the community.

Please do not impose any further wrongs upon the people of this great land. It was and has proven to be poor judgment that imposed "Green Zones" on us. You now have the opportunity to not right those wrongs but prevent the people responsible (GBRMPA) from committing further injustices.

Yours sincerely

Adam Royle