

8th September 2008

Dear Senator McEwen,

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and other Amendment bill 2008.

My extended family and I have participated in recreational water skiing and fishing since before I was born (now 39) and I am deeply concerned about the proposed amendments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.

These amendments seem quite ridiculous when looked at in context.

Amendment 9 subsection 3(1) redefines the meaning of fishing and changes the longstanding "innocent until proven guilty" to "guilty until proven innocent".

This is outrageous and simply not fair yet the Greens senator has argued there is no real or significant changes to the wording just its' positioning within the act. If this is the case then why do we need the change?

The wording of "intent to fish" is simply a stupid change as it means any person caught using a sounder whilst navigating through a reef could be caught and fined. I would like to see the Greens navigate a boat through a reef without a sounder!

Having fishing equipment on board whilst travelling through these green zones to a destination would also provide enough "evidence" of intent to fish and therefore make the person an offender.

In addition I wholeheartedly support the amendment 5550 (version 1) proposed by *Senator Macdonald and Senator Boswell* that the convictions against those under Section 38CA be revoked. This is an unjustified situation and would cause an outcry amongst the general public if for example this happened with motor vehicles (4WD) in a National Park and 360 criminal convictions were given.

Best regards

Chris Schultz