

8<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
by email to eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator McEwen,

Please accept this submission to the inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008.

My name is Trisha Forman and I am married with 3 children. My father was a boat builder, and as a child we grew up in sunny Townsville and always enjoyed fishing and getting out on the water. My father died about 14 years ago of cancer and some of my fondest memories are the fun and family time we had out fishing. My husband and I are now heavily involved in a local fishing club, and our children are enjoying the same type of family bonding that I enjoyed as a child – out fishing and boating with dad and mum. Through our fishing club we have seen many people gain friendship, meaning and a reason to spend time with their families.

I am saddened and angered when I read of the severe restrictions that are constantly being placed on the Great Barrier Reef. I am all for protecting our environment, but I think the Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 is an over reaction and a power play that is ruining the purpose of our ocean. My children have the right to enjoy the ocean that God created, and enjoy the simplicity and beauty that fishing brings to the whole family.

In the *amendment 9 subsection 3(1)* the definition of fishing is ludicrous. It seems that the safety of people is not what is of utmost importance. If we are travelling through a green zone with the purpose of fishing elsewhere, the *amendment 9 subsection 3(1)* states: (c) *engaging in any other activities that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating of, or taking of, fish;*  
(d) *placing, searching for or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment such as radio beacons;* 31  
(e) *any operations at sea directly in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition;* 33

This prohibits the use of electronic equipment such as a sounder which we would use for safety reasons.

How about spending time and resources educating our children about conservation (which we as parents obviously do anyway), rather than robbing them of their future?

And how about giving us a fair go rather than only giving us one week to lodge our submissions. Obviously you would receive fair more submissions from the fishing community if we were given a reasonable time frame.

Yours faithfully  
Trisha Forman  
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