

8th September 2008

SUBMISSION TO:

The Secretary,
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications & the Arts on;

THE ENQUIRY INTO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK & OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2008

Please consider my submission that follows as I have being a regular user of the Great Barrier Reef and the Marine Park for over thirty five years and wish to express my opinion on the bill amendments and other matters. Also, being an avid recreational fisherman and fishing tackle retail store manager I have a great interest in the future rules governing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the activities within the park. Being, a father of two children who also enjoy the use of the GBRMP I need to speak my views to ensure they can continue to use the park in a sustainable manner for many years to come.

Several aspects of the proposed amendments have me greatly concerned and believe they must be voted against as they simply don't make common sense and are another form of locking people out of a Marine Park that is supposed to be for multi user groups including recreational fishermen.

Firstly, the definition of fishing to be adopted is unbelievably bazaar and whoever composed this has obviously very little understanding of the GBRMP and certainly has a green agenda with no regard to the safety of people travelling through or conducting legal activities within a green zone. Please as politicians use some common sense and ask advise from real people who use the GBRMP and are in grave danger by the policies you wish these amendments to approve. Who would be as irresponsible to put peoples property and lives at risk by making it an illegal offense to have a depth sounder operating while travelling through or while in a green zone? Your definition of fishing meaning (searching for or locating fish) by a sounder which also tells a vessel the water depth will be illegal as it will be impossible for anyone to prove they were using it for a depth meter for safety and not to search or locate fish. Peoples lives are being put at risk by a ridiculous suggest law that is far to open to interpretation by inspectors. Also, why will fisheries inspectors be given more power to search people than a police officer for simply being in a green zone with a safety devise on?? Again who wrote this amendment its unbelievable.

The Precautionary Principle

Who gives anyone the right to lock up areas of land, sea or the GBRMP because of this GREEN GENERATED policy?? Why isn't real science used to determine what needs protection?? Again whoever invented this policy need to look at themselves and think of what they are actually doing by making laws and decision based on munbo jumbo. Many peoples livelihoods and relationships were destroyed by this green principle implemented by the GBRMPA in zoning the GBRMP based on something a scientist couldn't prove so you as politicians make a word up to justify it. Wake up and start introducing laws that are for the people that elected you and stop locking humans out of every place in our fantastic country because the green vote is more important than making laws based on the truth and real science. You people listen the the greens push on global warming and bending over backward to appease their every demand, while we the people pay the price for another word made up to justify everything. FACT the world has been cooling for the past six years regardless of the biggest increases in carbon emissions yet this is ignored, why do we never listen to real science simply because it isn't fashionable or wins votes.

Criminal Convictions

Why is a father and son that has accidentally wandered into a green zone fishing, by mistake, labelled a criminal for life and the stigma and difficulties in life this causes if convicted before the law change?? While assaults, robberies and numerous other activities sees courts not record convictions and no criminal records. Tell me that is fair and makes common sense. What's going on??

As a recreational fisherman I strongly believe in conservation and sustainable use by all humans in the GBRMP if its not sustainable it should be banned. However, I strongly oppose locking people out of areas because of a word and base on no evidence and real science.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Erskine