



The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on the Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

*By email: eca.sen@aph.gov.au
8 September 2008*

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 (Cth)

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) writes in full support of increased measures to protect and conserve the special and fragile ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef. In this instance we would refer you to the submission prepared for consideration by your Committee and dated 8 September 2008 by the Environmental Defenders Organisation – Queensland and the Environmental Defenders Organisation of North Queensland.

In summary, CAFNEC would like to see further measures enacted to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (“GBRMPA”) and the Commonwealth have at their disposal the legislative mechanisms required in order to be able to best adapt for, and mitigate, the inevitable impacts of certain climate change.

Further amendment of the GBRMP Act and the EPBC Act to achieve those objects are justified by a number of factors including that:

- The GBR Region and the World Heritage values it possesses are global treasures which Australia is obliged to protect and conserve to its full capacity and ability;
- The GBR Region houses ecosystems and processes which are vital to the future health and biodiversity of the global environment;
- The GBR Region plays a major part in the tourism economies of Queensland and Australia, and indeed the economies throughout the GBR Region and its coastline; and
- The future health of those economies depends to a very large degree upon the future health and sustainable use of the GBR Region.

The very real threat which climate change poses to this special and unique region requires decision-makers to be adequately and appropriately furnished with the means to be able to effect needed changes to management and use of the GBRMP.

Yours sincerely

Ellie Bock

President, Cairns and Far North Environment Centre