

Submission to the Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2008

06/September/2008

Senator McEwen, Chair
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 Michael Gregory and I am a newly retired man of 52 years old. I have had to retire
early because of health reasons. I am also the father of 8 children 5 of whom have Austistic
Spectrum Disorder.

Sir, this is Australia not a 3rdworld or dictatorship gulag. This ridiculous bill will put me at odds
with many issues that I face. Recreational fishing is just that a recreation. I fish to relax and
literally to prolong my life. It is one past time that I can pursue in a fairly passive way eg, sitting in
a boat or on the bank of an estuary or beach.

Notwithstanding my personal health issues, fishing is also one of the very few activities that my
austistic children enjoy outside of those stupid computer games. This means that there is
something that I can share with them and the obvious rewards and peace at home that come
from that.

This bill could very well stop that and take away my chance to connect with them. It could also
make both myself and my children criminals which is ridiculous!!

The criminal records need to be cancelled. And this is our park not a
sacred place for the greens to lock up and have to themselves. The few
fish we take do no damage at all and there is no science to support the
closures let alone more. That's probably why they want a law that says
they don't need science to justify more fishing bans – because no such science exists.

Please throw the whole Bill out – its nonsense.

I am so angry that elected politicians are so gutless to make decisions that might upset the green
vote! What about the vote of the common man or the family vote or the vote of a man who is
battling to raise a family with several handicapped children?

Please be very careful what you and the committee decide as it really has far reaching impacts.

Thank you for having a backbone.

Michael Eric Gregory