

To:

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 ec.sen@aph.gov.au

24 March 2011

**Submission to Senate Inquiry: Environment Protection and Biodiversity
Conservation Amendment (Bioregional Plans) Bill 2011**

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you and urge you all to support this Bill to give back the power of my elected politician to vote on changes to the Bioplanning Regions .

I am just a private law abiding citizen with a young family. We have a small boat and like to spend a nice day on the water occasionally when the weather and time permits. I have a few friends also that enjoy this past time.

We also might have a bit of a fish and if lucky catch a couple of fish for dinner and doubt very much if we would be impacting the fishery with any significance. I always promote with my friends and family to fish sustainably and leave some for tomorrow and we do.

We all support long standing sensible measures such as size and bag limits and I can also see benefits in timely species closed seasons as fish may congregate to breed.

However this all seems pointless while I watch countless numbers of Prawn Trawl Netters dragging the guts out of places near where I live like Moreton Bay senselessly killing tonnes of small fish and other sea animals EVERY DAY. This vandalistic fishing method has to stop or be severely restricted.

I am certainly not in favour of minority lobby groups such as WWF, AMCS & PEW Having the ear of the relevant Minister to push their short sighted agendas. It seems all too familiar a story with this Government having a long history of favouring little groups at the expense of the wider community.

It certainly seems wrong and smells “fishy” that we, who are in the hundreds of thousands and probably millions all over the country are being denied our democratic say.

The cost to us as a community will be huge if these few people have their will imposed on us.

Our families and wider seaside community around Bribie Island who largely depend on having decent access to our waterways would be heavily impacted and perhaps devastated if silly decisions are made at the flick of one persons pen.

Too many people depend on this for so many reasons to be at the mercy of one or a few lobbyists. Besides recreational interest, many jobs and industries need democratic protection.

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The Bill you are considering is putting the will of the greater community first and I would strongly prefer my voted representative voting on these Regions

From what I have seen these proposed Bioregions are so large that is several million square kilometres and almost as big as Australias land area itself.

How can this just be in the hands of minority groups and one Minister.

It's wrong, It's wrong, It's wrong

This is a peoples decision and needs to have fair Democratic process.

Thankyou.

Sincerely,

John Cardno