



THE HAINES GROUP

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

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

Dear Senators

We write to support this Bill and to express concern that any Senator would oppose such a clear call to Democratic principles.

The Haines Group is a second generation, family owned boat building company. We manufacture boats and import and distribute Suzuki outboards. Our company has long been a leader in environmental responsibility in the marine industry.

Our company has developed a low emission fibreglass boat building technology, which reduces emissions by 90%. We only promote low emission outboard engines and since 2005 have been working with, and urging, the Federal government to legislate outboard emissions standards reflecting the USA, EU, Canada, Japan, and now even China.

On the water we support sustainable and responsible use of our public assets. Fish size and bag limits, coupled with limited fish breeding protection such as closed seasons, proven to be adequate protection for our marine environment.

Others, especially US Based lobby groups like PEW, seem to hold the view that Australian families should be banned from responsibly enjoying our environment and that traditional and responsible food gathering should be outlawed.

The apparent political power of these minority groups, combined with the perceived shallow public consultation conducted on Marine Parks zoning has left an indelible impression in the minds of many that Democracy is dead. At least in the matter of Marine Zoning. If this all sounds far-fetched you need look no further than the submissions to the 2005 Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

The Haines Group Pty. Ltd. • Email: info@thehainesgroup.com • www.thehainesgroup.com
The Haines Group Pty. Ltd. ABN 62 868 567 262 • ATF The Haines Group Trust ACN 100 690 806

Australia:
140 Viking Drive, Wacol, Qld 4076
PO Box 820, Mt Ommanney, Qld 4074
Phone: (07) 3271 4400 • Fax: (07) 3271 4054

New Zealand:
Unit 1, 41 Smales Road, East Tamaki, Auckland 1706
PO Box 259343, Greenmount, East Tamaki, Auckland 1730
Phone: (09) 272 4080 • Fax: (09) 272 4081



We also ask that you consider the financial ramifications, mostly to small business and jobs. The Great Barrier Reef Rezoning was the only Marine Park rezoning to ever offer compensation not only to commercial fishermen but also to any business effected. These funds were severely restricted, and were restructuring grants, which fell short of full compensation. Even so the payouts first estimated by the Environment Minister's Advisors to be \$10m were eventually more than \$240m.

Apart from the costs to jobs and the cost to small business the social costs are very high. Participation is the social, family bonding of recreational fishing dropped dramatically. That's a high cost to the social framework that economists can't measure well. Even so this is all in the hands of one Minister, with flawed advisors. This needs to change.

The Bill before you is very simple. It returns to the Parliament the right and obligation to review the decisions essentially made by public servants and lobby groups. Passing this Bill will go a long way toward restoring public and industry faith in the democratic process.

After all, in the upcoming zonings we are talking about 5.3 million square kilometres of ocean. That's a significant responsibility when you compare that to Australia's land mass of 7.6 million square kilometres. That's a significant responsibility that needs to be in the hands of our elected representatives.

Yours sincerely

Greg Haines
Managing Director
The Haines Group