

03/09/08

Susan Kelly

The Secretary  
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment,  
Communications and the Arts

Dear Senator McEwan,

Please accept my submission in the enquiry on the Great Barrier Reef Amendment Bill 2008.

As a permanent resident of North Queensland, having married, raised a family, with now eight grandchildren, with fishing being the main recreational activity, we have done as a family for over 37 years, I feel the new laws about our reef are misguided and misleading to the general non fishing public.

GRMBA have taken an attitude of more zoning is better, when evidence has proved them wrong from the start.

Having invested in fishing huts, land, not to mention the thousands spent on all the boats, equipment, etc, we purchase, all to be told we can't use any of it, in the actual areas, where we live, walk the beach, go in the boat?

What next, more restrictions?

What part of this new amendment takes into account our lifestyle up here? Children grow up fishing off the bank, or in tinnies with parents. This is what we do, who we are, children grow up respecting nature, learn bag limits, learn how to be responsible adults, then pass it down to the next generation.

Our weather and lifestyle up here is what makes North Queensland a perfect place to bring up families.

Take our fishing away from us even further, for the sake of unfounded evidence of reef erosion or whatever the new scare tactic is this week, is just plain stupidity.

**Criminal Convictions.**

Should be overturned for the people involved, you get less for burglary.

**Powers to Inspect.**

They seem to have enough powers now, have even been stopped on a road out of a fishing spot.

I have issues with the other parts of the bill

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We attended the meetings on the Green Zones, only to see our voices as a whole community, recreational, and commercial were just ignored. Consultation on this [Amendment Bill](#) has been rushed, with no real effort to actually talk to the general public who use these areas.

What will it take for the powers to be,realise, we respect the reef, most don't fish the reef, weather keeps that under control, bag limits in esturary situations work, and the laws should be made by people who do live here, do fish, do walk the beach with children, and generally love the place they live.

Thank you for your time,

Regards

Sue Kelly