

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

Date: September 8, 2008

Dear Committee member

The following is my submission to the inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008.

My name is Nicole Cooney and I am 31 years old. I have a Bachelor of Environmental Science from Griffith University, and since completing my course in 1997 I have worked in media.

I have camped and fished all along Queensland's east coast, and have spent a great deal of money in small coastal towns over the years. It is easy to see that the livelihood of so many people depends on holidaymakers like myself. The fishing in many locations is the star attraction; without it, the hordes of anglers and their families who visit – and who support local operators – would stay away.

I am opposed to the following parts of the amendment: 9 Subsection 3(1)

- (a) Searching for, or taking, fish;
- (b) Attempting to search for, or take, fish;
- (c) Engaging in any other activities that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating of, or taking of, fish.

These would have a devastating effect on so many coastal towns. Additionally, the flow-on effects mean it wouldn't be only fishing-related and accommodation providers who would be affected.

I am also particularly opposed to the 'Precautionary Principle'. I have always been passionate about protecting the environment, but I also believe policy decisions should be based on thorough scientific analysis. This is especially true when so many people's livelihoods are at stake.

Surely we can do better than this.

Regards
Nicole Cooney