

Senator McEwen, Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
by email to eca.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister & Committee.

This submission represents the interests of BRP Australia Pty. Ltd. (Bombardier Recreational Products Australia Pty.Ltd.). We are members of each of the State Boating Industry Associations in Australia (BIA) affiliated under AMIF (Australian Marine Industries Federation) and a founding Member of OEDA (Outboard Engine Distributors Association).

Our position is firmly in support of the Submissions provided to the committee by the Marine Industry Leaders, Marine Queensland and AMIF on this issue.

Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP), a privately-held company, is a world leader in the design, development, manufacturing, distribution and marketing of motorized recreational vehicles. Its portfolio of brands and products includes: Ski-Doo® and Lynx® snowmobiles, Sea-Doo® watercraft and sport boats, Evinrude® and Johnson® outboard engines, direct injection technologies such as Evinrude E-TEC™, Can-Am™ all-terrain vehicles and roadsters, and Rotax® engines and karts.

BRP, has strong advocacy for the environment and is a leader in the provision of environmentally friendly products. Recently awarded the Clean Air Excellence Award by the United States Environment Protection Agency for its E-TEC range of Outboard engines, is testament to its commitment to the sustainability of the environment.

Our organisation is responsible for the distribution of marine related products through a national distribution network of some 200 privately owned retail outlets, primarily positioned in coastal locations around Australia.

The supply of those products support recreational fishing and boating market segments, important to the employment of individuals and families in the entire marine sector and related tourism activities.

It is inconceivable to imagine that the proposed amendments to this Bill will allow for actions to be taken that will adversely and profoundly affect the livelihood and rights of the general boating and recreational fishing communities. There is a strong culture in this country for water related activities and fishing families in both the cities and seaside communities. It is just UN Australian to bring this kind of ill thought legislation to bear on present and future generations.

Of major concern is the strategy employed and the enshrinement of the Precautionary Principle. Not only is it dangerously UN democratic, it does not allow for transparency of proper science to be employed in Zone Management Practices. Of further concern is the follow on affect of this legislation will have and the precedents that other jurisdiction rezoning along the principles contained in this Bill will set for the industry in other States.

We have already witnessed in the Far North Queensland experience and this must not be repeated.

It is also of vital concern that in Hansard transcripts recently noted that Industry and Stakeholders are in support of this Bill. !!

To our knowledge and from where we sit within the boating and recreational fishing Industry there is NO Industry support for this Bill in its current form or this kind of heavy handed and non consequential approach.

This progress of this Bill has, for whatever reason not met with scrutiny until now. The consultative process has not taken place with industry; it is flawed with safety issues and will result in fatalities at sea.

In no way does it meet or pass any reasonability test, it contravenes the international mariner's right to navigate and fish, and lacks consistency with other Australian Federal or State Legislation and needs to be aligned with normal legislative practice.

To allow this Bill to pass without review in accordance with the arguments as provided by Marine Queensland and the AMIF will mean we have yet another embarrassing piece of legislation or regulatory action to which history will once again repeat itself, where we will have to say SORRY.

We request the committee to bring ORDER and BALANCE to this Bill in the interest of all Australians.

Regards

David Heyes
Public & Regulatory Affairs
BRP Australia Pty.Ltd.