

> 08 September 2008

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> Dear Senator Joyce

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> Reference to: The Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 and the Removal of Convictions Amendment 5550 (version 1)

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> Please accept our submission on both of these matters.

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> My wife and I have been fishing persons both recreational and professional for the past 50 years. We are worried about the proposed amendments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975. Proposed Amendment 9 Subsection 3(1) Would mean that citizens would have to prove at their own cost that they were not where the Inspecting Officer said they were instead of the Officer proving where you were before issuing an offence notice. I believe we in Australia are all innocent until proven guilty. So please do not give away our rights as Australian Citizens.

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> We are concerned that just passing through a Green Zone with our Sounder on for safety reasons so as not to hit any reef, a Patrol Officer could say 'You were Fishing' because we had the depth sounder turned on, and we would have to prove otherwise. We are Pensioners and could not afford that.

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> We support amendment 5550 (Version 1) proposed by Senators Boswell and Macdonald requiring for those previously convicted under Section 38CA to have their convictions overturned.

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> Please give this Bill a lot of consideration, consider a fair go for all Australians and do not give any more power to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority who seem hell bent on locking up the reef so that neither us, our families nor tourists will be able to appreciate this asset.

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Yours faithfully

Pamela and Jeffrey Matthews