

Dear Facilitators,

I am a PhD candidate studying coral bleaching in the Keppel region of the GBR and am on the Harvest Marine Advisory Committee and the Capricorn Local Marine Advisory Committee. I would like to make the following comments in relation to the Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act:

- GBRMPA must remain an independent statutory authority with the powers to manage the GBRMP and continue to be based in the GBR region.
- Increased powers in the GBRMP Act to address offsite impacts
- Review of permit fees for commercial activities
- Removal of latent effort in the extractive marine industries (i.e. permits not used for 12 months or more to be removed and not re-assigned in order to reduce fishing pressure on the GBR in light of climate change)
- Review of current funding for the GBRMPA to enable good management and enforcement.
- Better processes regarding public consultation and transparency for permit applications and approvals - at present the database on the GBRMPA website is out of date and often difficult to access and search.
- Minimisation of consultation processes that could allow stakeholders with a vested financial interest to unduly influence decision making processes - e.g. the Harvest MAC and LMAC which are heavily stacked with industry stakeholders and have few conservation representatives
- The GBRMP Boundary should be amended to include all of the GBR World Heritage Area.
- The World Heritage Area of the GBR should be extended to include the reefs and islands of the Coral Sea and the GBRMP eastern boundary extended to the EEZ.
- The GBRMP Act should be amended to include similar provisions for the consideration of cumulative impacts.
- Penalties for breaching GBR Regulations should be increased to match those of the EPBC Act.

Sincerely,

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