

Working to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef.

8 September 2008

The Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts' Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008.

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) supports the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 in its current form.

GBRF strongly supports initiatives designed to deliver long term protection and encourage ecologically sustainable use of our precious Great Barrier Reef. The GBRF believes initiatives designed to increase the resilience of the Reef are particularly important at the present time, as the Reef faces unprecedented risk from climate change and other threats including overfishing and poor water quality.

The Foundation believes the measures contained in the legislation will raise the bar for the ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef. We believe these measures will drive better ecological outcomes for the Reef through modernising the Barrier Reef regulatory framework by improving the enforcement and compliance regime.

GBRF believes the legislation will improve the capacity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GRMPA) to deliver this long term protection and encourage ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef through:

- Modernising and integrating the legislation with other Commonwealth and Queensland legislation and international obligations;
- Introducing a robust and streamlined environmental impact assessment and permitting processes;

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- Enhancing investigation powers;
- Introducing a wider range of enforcement mechanisms;
- Encouraging compliance and responsible use; and
- Clarifying and filling gaps.

Australia has limited time to protect our unique Great Barrier Reef and it therefore vital we take steps to increase its resilience as it confronts the impacts of climate change and other threats.

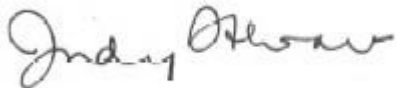
The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is Australia's only dedicated fundraiser for the Great Barrier Reef. The Foundation aims to find and fund solutions to sustain the Reef and represents a broad spectrum of senior business leaders and individuals who have a keen interest in securing the Reef's future. It attracts private resources to support the projects that will find the solutions to the threats facing the Reef and since its inception in 1999, has raised more than \$11 million from the private sector, business and philanthropy, for projects on the Reef

The GBRF 2008 research program includes \$3 million for cutting edge Australian environmental research projects into the impacts of climate change on the Reef. The Foundation is supportive of projects which help to equip agencies like GBRMPA with the information needed to best manage the Reef.

Thank you again for this opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts' Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008.

GBRF supports the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 in its current form and believes that in 2008 - the International Year of the Reef - the legislation represents a 21st century approach to reef management.

Yours sincerely



Judy Stewart
Managing Director