

The Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
By email to [eca.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eca.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator McEwen,

Please accept this submission to the inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008.

I have run a family owned boat and accessory business in Queensland since 1982 and now employ sixteen staff. We are a successful small business under threat from political ideologies that seem to want us all to be vegetarians.

The laws proposed for GBRMPA which you are now reviewing have nothing to do with conservation. The Qld Fisheries size and bag limits take care of that. The reef is now 33% closed off to fishing (nothing else) - well really 75%

The Great Barrier Reef is not under threat. At least not from the recreational angler. Most boats can't get out to the reef on all but a few days a year - and then they have bag limits. The vast majority of the reefs are beyond the reach of any shore based boat - but they didn't lock up these - no they chose to green zone the reefs we could get to - effectively taking 75%.

That's why they paid out well over \$240million to help businesses. This Bill seems to be aimed at closing us all down.

Have no doubt - the GBReef rules get copied by every other marine park in Australia.

The 2006 review tried to pull them into line. It said that they had to take into account the costs to communities and especially to use transparent science. Now in this Bill they are ignoring the review and saying the reef is for them alone (conservation = zero fishing) and that under the Precautionary Principle that they don't have to use any science.

So tell me - when it comes to public consultation - what can people argue in their submissions? They have it all locked up.

Well it's not a crime to go fishing. It's certainly no worse than speeding though a school zone but look at the relative penalties \$400 for speeding and \$1500 for fishing, plus for some a criminal record. What sort of balance is this?

Please reverse those convictions. It was a mistake in making the Laws - do the right thing and fix your mistake, even if it costs. That's what you demand of me under consumer laws - fix my mistakes. Well that's what the public wants from you - fix this mistake. I don't see what all the debate is about. Except from the Australian Greens I suppose.

It's every Australian's Reef. It's our outdoor. Don't let this idiotic bureaucracy steal it from us.

Sincerely



Bruce Cunningham  
Cunninghams Marine