

8th September, 2008

Senator McEwan, Chair

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

My name is Grant Hughes, a Bookkeeper. Myself, wife and three children are recreational fisherman and am concerned about some of the proposed amendments to the GBRMPA 1975.

Of particular concern to me is **Amendment 9 subsection 3(1)**, – *engaging in any other activities that can reasonable be expected to result in the locating of, or taking of, fish,*

On our annual holiday to 1770, if weather permits, myself and family will travel to Lady Musgrave Island for a picnic and snorkel in the lagoon. Part of Lady Musgrave lagoon forms is contained within the Green Zone. As such, we do not take any fishing tackle for this trip, however, we do use the echo sounder/fish finder as a navigation aid. This allows us to monitor water depth when entering and travelling around the lagoon to ensure we don't come into contact with the coral bommies, potentially damaging the reef and our boat.

These changes to the act will stop any ordinary Australians from using and enjoying the Barrier reef, instead, locking it up for a few Tourism companies. I urge you to reconsider the changing of the act to ensure that all Australians are still able to use and enjoy the reef, without fear of a criminal conviction.

Thank you

Grant Hughes