

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am seriously concerned of the news that there is a plan to longer have the voices of indigenous Australians heard re management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

To be heard there must be Indigenous representation on the Board. Indigenous people are the ones who know the reef well, are the ones that are connected spiritually and physically to the are. They are the ones who have intimate knowledge of this country handed down over generations and this can only benefit the management of these areas. Also with out indigenous representation how are the voices to be heard of the needs of the people to maintain their connection with their culture. I believe it would be another 'nail in the coffin' of indigenous rights in this country if this were to go ahead.

This is the 40th anniversary of Indigenous people being recognised as fully human and able to contribute to this country. It would be incredulous then to think that their contributions are to be dismissed by removing their representation and voice form the BRMB.

Yours faithfully,
Carole Powell