

Dear sir/madam,

I understand that legislation is currently before the Senate which will amend the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act to remove the requirement for the Marine Park Authority to include a representative of Indigenous people and communities adjacent to the Park.

I am a marine biologist by training, have worked with GBRMPA and have worked with the Indigenous people of Cape York for over a decade. My connections to GBRMPA go back to its establishment in 1975.

I was a foundation member of the GBRMPA FRAC (Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee) on which I represented Indigenous issues. I am taken aback by this retrograde step and believe that it will impact negatively on the relationship between the GBRMPA and Australia's coastal Indigenous people and beyond.

I wish to voice my disapproval in the strongest terms.

Yours sincerely

Chris Roberts BSc Hons Marine Biology