

Dear Senators

The Howard Government might think it is so clever that it can absorb the Indigenous population and it might in the short term paper over the lack of Indigenous Representation on the GBRMP Authority. But only a one eyed racist could believe that this would be a victory in any form.

Howard refused to say sorry to the stolen generations. Howard may be unconcerned about the 17 to 20 year differential in the average life expectancy of Indigenous people and other Australians. Howard may continue to attack Indigenous cultural law. Already other commentators have likened him to a skid mark on the bed sheet of progress.

Howard may force some Indigenous people to forego their communal ownership in return for the welfare payments or housing that the rest of Australia takes for granted. Howard may succeed in removing Indigenous representation from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park authority but it will be such a pyrrhic victory that only a denuded racist would regard it as worthy of wasting his time on in the 21st century. It is a question of trust. Yes we know who we trust to play the racist card at every opportunity.

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