

Any suggestion of excluding Indigenous or Community representation on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority can only have a negative impact on the successful function of the Authority.

There can be no doubt that the pristine condition of the Reef was never threatened by Indigenous presence which is more than can be said of two centuries of colonisation and flow off of excess nutrients or global warming contributed to by agricultural practices.

Indigenous access to the reef has always been about protection ,not exploitation as can be see by the Tourist Industry and we must recognise that Indigenous people have intrinsic rights to participate in it's continued well being.

The Australian Government should place more emphasis and greater attention to the possible threats posed by foreign shipping rather than the exclusion of an element of our population who have a vast collective knowledge about their environment.

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