

To Whom it May Concern
Friday 8 June 2007

I believe that it is not a Good Afternoon if it is true 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 do not have the means or time to verify the bolded statement but wish to register my strong protest against such a proposal if it were to be true.

I believe that many of the difficulties experienced in natural resource management stem from lack of significant engagement with key stakeholders. This is especially true if traditional owners are not allowed the time, resources or processes for them to contribute to the development of plans and proposals.

Traditional Owners should have a key role in the management of significant areas as their involvement should be based on their traditional knowledge acquired over decades of sustainable management of land and sea resource(s).

Far more important than our (white) triple bottom line driven focus for sustainable management is the significance of Traditional Owner cultural and spiritual values of Land and Sea Country.

I believe that the removal of the requirement to have TO representation will have a huge negative impact both on the Marine Park (loss of traditional knowledge) and also on those people themselves as it is Their Country (loss of management input, loss of connectivity, loss of identity). In the end we will all loose, both the Park and the spirit of the aboriginal people.

Yours Sincerely
David Reid