

The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information and Technology and the Arts
Committee
Parliament House
Canberra.

Dear Secretary,

Re: Proposed Amendment to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

I have just become aware of the amendment to remove the requirement for the Marine Park Authority to include a representative of Indigenous people and communities adjacent to the park.

This is a retrograde step. It is sometimes frustrating for traditional Aboriginal people to deal with bureaucracies, but there are qualified Aboriginal people who can bridge the knowledge gap between traditional knowledge and governments. The Universities in Townsville and Rockhampton would know such people. The important matter is the care of the Marine Park, especially with future changes in sea level. Aboriginal people were there before the seas rose to their present level. The skill is finding their knowledge before it is too late.

Yours sincerely
Dr Rosemary Kinne B.Sc (U of Q) PhD (ANU).