

The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Committee
Australian Government, Canberra

It has come to my attention 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. As one who values the knowledge and wisdom of Indigenous Australians about our environment and its wonderful resources like the Great Barrier Reef, I am shocked to know that such a move is afoot. Australia's unique heritage needs to be protection by more than just scientific and economic interests. It's cultural and spiritual characteristics need to be taken into account as well. I am particularly saddened by the fact that such a move is being made in this year when several important anniversaries related to the place of Indigenous peoples in this country are being commemorated.

Sincerley yours,

Wendy Flannery