

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to register my opposition to the Bill proposing to remove the requirement for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to include a representative of Indigenous people and communities adjacent to the Park.

One of the single biggest factors that seems to be behind the levels of indigenous disadvantage is the level of control they exert over their own lives and their environment. Removing their right to be represented on the MPA for the Great Barrier Reef will only make this problem worse for the Indigenous groups in the area.

Australians more broadly will also be missing out on the opportunity to learn something from our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters about the history and management of the area.

The Howard Government keeps talking about 'practical reconciliation' - but actions such as this make it clear that this is just 'spin' and they are not in the least bit serious about addressing the causes of disadvantage.

I urge the Senate Committee to recommend that this Bill be rejected.

Sincerely,  
David Powell