

Good morning,

I'm a spearfisher and a freediver.

I was unpleasantly surprised when I heard you're going to ban spearfishing in the areas where other fishing methods are allowed. I believe spearfishing is less harmful for the environment rather than, let's say, rod fishing.

First of all, it's more selective as a spearfisher can assess the catch before any damage to fish is done. Secondly, spearfishers produce no rubbish comparing to regular anglers, we don't use lines, hooks, bites, plastic wraps/bugs/bottles etc. Finally, me and my mates always clean up the areas we're diving in if there's garbage in the water or at the bottom.

Being honest, I feel you should give preference to spearfishing rather than to any other fishing method as we're the people who love and willing to protect our environment.

I hope you will reconsider the plan proposal and remove the spearfishing ban in the mentioned areas (Lord Howe Island & at nearby Elizabeth Reef.)

Thanks