

I and my family had been enthusiastic partakers of the Australian Bush for many years. We had always headed west rather than east at every opportunity. That was until, we were invited to scuba dive off the east coast ocean reserves, initially on Heron Island Queensland then traveling further down south. Seeing the unblemished beauty of our undersea flora and fauna was fantastic. The uniqueness and diversity this marine reserve and others we visited won us over - We were hooked. We have spent the last eleven and half years diving on and around such beautiful marine reserves. Personally I feel we experienced not just the beauty & nature of these reserves but also and just as importantly we have developed further pride in our own culture - a heart felt pride in our politicians acumen & foresight in setting up such marine reserves, and because their eyes were firmly affixed to the future - for all Australians.

I and my family are not scientifically marine trained (marine biology etc.) however we have had opportunities to attend several universities in science over the years to see with our own eyes, methods use in and for marine park maintenance & health.

Now we hear our federal political representatives are considering cutting - by up to 50% the area of our Australian Marine Reserves. This family for one, is all feeling somewhat shocked and devastated. Any call to reduce our Australian Marine Reserves shows that there is little if any scientific understanding of what our marine reserves provide & require to function effectively. These reserves may in future hold Australia's premium marine foodstuffs and may be the only available source of essential health requirements given overwhelming activities of global warming.

One major point we would like to raise, is each reserve requires an effective marine Skirt (i.e.: a wide marine boundary surrounding each reserve). Such boundary Skirts can be thought of either as being located outside of or inside a.k.a. within of each marine reserve. ***The word "Skirt" totally of my own creation, is used here to define the size of the skirting circumferential area, times the skirting width. An easy analogy would be that of a bicycle tyre*** where the difference between the inside radius to the outside radius equals the skirting width. The length of the outside radius representing the skirt length.

Any consideration given in reducing a marine reserve must take its Skirt into account. We sincerely ask you to accept only a outside Skirt view point otherwise the actual size (area) of any marine reserve would be seriously inhibited reserve life. Marine reserve flora and fauna are dependent on many things both visible & invisible to us. Things like the tides and tidal routing, the percentage of silting & silting composition, water temperature & rates-of-change, impurities & pollution effects, microbiological foods sources, enhanced reproductive environments & activities, to name a couple off the top of my head. They all require and are carried by both major & minor winds and sea currents. They tend to flow to, from & across a marine reserve. Outside Skirt acts as a health maintainer within the marine reserve context. Outside Skirting additionally allows a greater amount of nutrients to flow in or diverted keeping the marine reserve from environmentally poor deposits & man-made substances e.g.: diverting off-shore river pollutants away; or diverting dissimilar fish stocks towards our marine

reserves. It is possible by "seeding" protected flora and fauna we encourage new colonies of current and new life forms to supplement our flora and fauna for greater diversity.

As a modern Australian family we understand to a large degree that others may require access to our marine reserves. We ask that all commercial access and activities be banned while community & scientific access should be encouraged.

We sincerely ask that you deeply think about and accept all available wide-ranging scientific marine research, local marine reserve management tends, together with Australian associated land & environmental research. Additionally, we ask that you spend time in **fully questioning any & all submissions asking for a lowering marine reserves area sizing. Especially prod with a hard stick to see who is actually behind each submission, and why now it is imperative in lowering reserve size.** Your community needs to clearly understand who benefits, over what period they benefit, what if any sunset clause is provided, and what if anything will other parties offer in terms financial, biological, cultural and logistics payments to assist each reserve to exist to the greatest degree possible. We your community will demand - what are the advantages & disadvantages of any supported submission or ministerial demands and to what degree will such will our flora and fauna be affected?

Future Australian families, may find that those that support such reduction of marine reserve size have left them with nothing more than a shell of political deceit . We see our Australian Marine Reserves as just that! Our marine life forms preserved by Australians for Australians now and in the future. We would go as far as expending military resources in defending our marine resources, be in no doubt.

Please, we ask that you be upfront and honest firstly with yourself, and then remember your community. Be upstanding, be proud of yourselves and make only good judgments for all Australians. **Vote for maintaining or even expanding our current marine reserve sizes.**

Yours sincerely, with thanks

Grahame M Kelly & Family (Four registered adult voters: Grahame, Brigitte, Silke & Julie)

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