

I am increasingly concerned that our natural heritage is being willingly squandered by governments in the quest to satisfy business interests and the 'economy' We all worship at the altar of the economy; sometimes at the expense of so many other aspects of our nations. I am sure that you will argue the changes you have made to the protection of our marine parks is a 'good thing' but I remain very sceptical. I only have to look at the management of the Great Barrier Reef to find the foundations of my scepticism.

Yet the Great Barrier Reef, and our other natural wonders, bring in a great deal of money in tourist dollars; tourism, however, will no doubt decline around the Great Barrier Reef as it's common knowledge that it's in severe decline. Of course, that won't stop the coal mine in the Galilee Basin as money talks, via big business and the miners, and the Reef has no voice other than through environmentalist. The government, however, seeks to remove their charitable status in an attempt to shut them up. I will continue to fund them and it may interest you to know that I live in a 'safe' Liberal suburb yet I am passionate about our environment and becoming more so with age.

Our natural heritage, like the Great Barrier Reef, is irreplaceable; it should be protected, not have it's protections eroded by vested interests. I am increasingly dismayed by politicians and their short term views; i.e. do anything to achieve re-election. There is a total dirth of commitment to ideals, or ethics, which is why the younger population are so disengaged and disinterested in politics. They see politicians as largely self-interested, which they do seem to be.

I find both major parties extrememely disappointing and wonder if democracy is indeed broken. Bill Shorten is short on ethics and sincerity (the thought of him as PM is truly awful) and Malcolm Turnbull promised so much and delivered so little; he's hobbled by the flat-earthers on the right of the Lib/Nats.

Please can someone do what's right for the sake of it rather than to achieve re-election? Politics is a shabby establishment these days.

Sincerely,
Kate Irish