

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Lord Howe Marine Park draft plan within the Temperate east marine park network. I have been a resident of Lord Howe Island for the last 30 years. My children have grown up here and my husband and I run a business here, Sea to Summit Expeditions involving guided walks up Mt Gower and fishing & sightseeing/ birdwatching on our charter vessel " Noctiluca".

My main concern is that this document appears to be a generic one size fits all parks type of draft plan. It includes things that are so incompatible with Lord Howe Island and our marine park, our heritage listing and our main form of income, the tourism trade. It should be a plan consistent with our nsw waters plan. It appears to be a document designed to appease the fishing and mining lobbies. None of whom live and work on the island nor have a long term understanding of our uniqueness and our livelihood out here. Although we hear the mantra "Parks for all people" the opening up of Lord Howes marine park to the activities below does not fulfill that. In fact it would just look after a very few industries and leave the real users of the park, tourists and residents of the island very poorly off.

The draft plan of management should have been a document tightening up the protection of the island and the surrounding commonwealth waters, instead it is a try of opening up of our waters to pollution, pests and pipelines. It is the vision of someone who has not visited Lord Howe Island and heard both the visitors and residents marvelling in the beauty of the place and how well managed it is compared to most places in the world. How in the past protections have been put in place to preserve this island for future generations and to protect the incomes of the residents whilst at the same time protecting the environment. How the existing commonwealth marine park was a vision and respected by most. How we don't want it changed to be detrimental to the island and its waters. This draft plan must be made stronger.

Of particular concern to me are the proposed uses below.

General use and access.

Ballast water discharge and exchange. This should be prohibited in all zones. Lord Howe is free from marine pests and pollution. Why would you open it up to suffer from the introduction of pests that you can prevent so easily? Marine pests are a huge cost both environmentally and financially. Prohibiting it now in all zones will prevent future problems and also avoid putting our world heritage status at risk. Increase the protection to the 12 nm area. We need a biosecurity zone around Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid and Elizabeth and Middleton reef.

Commercial fishing

Dropline, longline pelagic, purse seine, mid water trawl should be prohibited in all zones. Large scale commercial fishing has no place in our commonwealth waters. Lord Howe has a small charter fishing base for tourists. This performs an important role both in terms of tourism and income for the island. Opening it up to other commercial fishers will deplete stocks and I would question how well it would be policed. It would be very easy for them to stray into the nsw waters so it is best to keep them out in the commonwealth marine park zone as well. All LHI charter vessels are monitored and data collected to ensure their compliance. Their small, artisanal operations should be protected.

Commercial Aquaculture

This proposal should be prohibited in all zones. It is unnecessary for the communities financial survival. It would be an eyesore in our marine park and would put our world heritage status at risk. Experience has shown in other areas that it increases pollution and introduces diseases, things we

don't currently have. There has been no lobbying for this activity ever. It appears part of the generic plan and should be removed entirely and prohibited in all zones to ensure it is never allowed. It is not allowed in the state marine park and by prohibiting it in the commonwealth zones will ensure consistent management and the protection of our world heritage status.

Recreational fishing.

The inclusion of spearfishing in all bar one zone should be removed. It is incompatible with our tourism industry and our family friendly destination. The community that actually lives here does not wish to have spearfishing allowed. It is only the mainland lobbying groups that want it allowed. It is not the environmentally friendly option that they tout. Spear fishers are known to target a spot until the fish are depleted, they are known to destroy coral in their pursuit of a particular prey. It should be prohibited in all zones.

Mining

Construction of pipelines (excepting communication lines) should be prohibited in all zones along with mining operations including exploration. The potential for industrial accidents and the pollution caused by mining and pipelines would put our tourism livelihoods at risk. It would affect our current world heritage status and take away the pristine status of our marine park.

Structures and works

Moorings and their excavation and maintenance are necessary part of island life. Their allowance in all zones should continue.

Clarification of dredged material should be stated. It should state material from Lord Howe Island only.

Fish aggregating devices should be prohibited in all zones. They have been trialled here over the years and have been a resounding failure. They disappear often within days due to our extreme sea conditions. They then become pollution, habitat wreckers and potentially shipping hazards.

The extending out of the various boundaries will make it easier for compliance however it is of concern that it doesn't include the sea mount to the north of Middleton reef. An extension to include this would raise the esteem of the park highly. This was included in the original 2012 draft management plan. The extension of the habitat protection zone LHHPZ between the island and the reefs would also be preferable to ensure protection and biodiversity and would ensure that destructive activities such as trawling would be prohibited.

The UNESCO world heritage listed LHMP contains significant ecological, social and economic values and special consideration is required for any changes to all proposed activities within this draft plan. As pointed out above it appears the LHIMP has been included in a generic plan for the temperate east marine park with little consideration given to its uniqueness. I strongly plead with you to consider the changes above to give it further protection.

Yours sincerely,
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