

Thank you for the opportunity given to submit comment in relation to the future zoning and use of the waters surrounding Norfolk Island with regard to significant changes proposed by Australia.

From what I have heard, Parks Australia officers Mr Jason Mundy and Mr John Lloyd gave their time to meet with various groups in Norfolk Island and provided much-needed (and wanted) information. Unfortunately I was unable to attend these briefings, but would like to thank them for the valuable assistance they gave.

I was born on Norfolk Island sixty-one years ago and have lived here in Norfolk Island ever since, with the exception of some education in Australia, a year working in London and back-packing Europe – all many years in much younger days. I was then very fortunate to marry here in Norfolk Island, bear and raise a family here and to continue living here with all the enjoyment and love of this isolated, fragile and beautiful little Island. My children, who, like me, are *hmv* “*Bounty*” descendants of British & Polynesian origin, are at stages of their lives where they are preparing to return to their birthplace in the next few years. I am anxious for them, their spouses and my grandchildren, to return to continue caring for Norfolk Island and its surrounds as past generations of their ancestors have done. And for all Norfolk Islanders to continue to teach upcoming generations to know and care for these surrounds.

In support of local knowledge conveyed to you by others, I recall the worry experienced by our men and so the rest of the community of Norfolk Island, when fish levels were depleted by a fish factory set up in Norfolk Island. This coupled with Australia later allowing foreign and commercial fishing in our 200nm exclusive economic zone, which at the time had been claimed by Australia as its own EEZ. The foreign fishing vessels were also found to have been the cause of coral damage along the Norfolk rise sea area. This took place in the mid-1960's to early 1970's. Once these activities had ceased, Norfolk Island fishermen formed an association (still to this day called the Norfolk Island Fishing Association). Using local knowledge and scientific guidelines offered by interested and qualified professionals, the local fishing association returned fish stocks to high levels through, amongst other things, excellent management practises, voluntary fishing bans during spawning season and at times limited quantity catches.

The Norfolk Island Fishing Association is almost unique in that, despite its membership being almost solely made up of Island fishermen, its main aim is conservation, good management practises and care of all aspects of the ocean to ensure continued, and hopefully eternal, integrity of our surrounding ocean.

My own hope is that protection and other policies for ocean reserves and parks surrounding Norfolk Island will be formulated and carried out in conjunction with Island long-term expertise in fisheries and ocean and conservation; with management and implementation carried out locally by appropriate Islanders, in association with appropriate world bodies. I ask that my hope is part of consideration (and part of the final result) for Norfolk Island waters which includes the 200nm EEZ.

The BOX The Australian Fisheries Management Authority has indicated through visiting officers and confirmed in a recent press release locally, that the so-called “MoU Box” continues to exist and is recognised despite not showing on recent maps. I propose the “Box” inshore fishery zone reserved for the exclusive use of Norfolk Island fishers must be formalised and officially recognised to appear on all maps; its area to be as originally mapped, or possibly larger, and further I support the NI Fishing Association, the NI Flora & Fauna Society and

others in their call for The Box, currently a Multiple Use Zone (Blue) be changed to a Habitat Zone (Yellow).

EEZ The 200nm zone surrounding Norfolk Island, I submit should be returned to Norfolk Island. Managing and monitoring a remote marine park has become feasible for small and isolated islands and Pacific nations using technology and tracking solutions now available, along with appropriate support to Norfolk Island. This zone includes the Box. I support the change of the current Multiple Use Zone (Blue areas) of the 200nm zone be changed and upgraded to a Habitat Protection Zone.

In closing, I reiterate the success of Norfolk Islanders in protecting, preserving and caring for our waters, inter alia, while also benefitting the environment, fishing, tourism, health, recreation and the Island's economy and ask that significant importance and full consideration be given to this fact when furthering the draft management plan.

A further reason for my personal support of the local fishing and conservation fraternities in Norfolk Island is their ongoing concern, monitoring and publicising of situations at Headstone "tip" waste disposal . A practise which continues despite their concerns and which now escalates with the open immigration policy the Australian government has given to residing in Norfolk Island.

My concern is also for possible ill-effects of deep-sea, sea bed or any area of activity not conclusively proven or shown to be safe. Information is conflicting.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment.

I look forward to a Norfolk Island future retaining the Island's uniqueness in conjunction with its fragility, isolation and beauty under sympathetic reserves, parks and both land and sea/ocean management.

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