

Hi everyone,

I think the recent added protection to the Great Barrier Reef are excellent. This reef isn't just a priceless, unique and irreplaceable piece of nature, it is a magnificent resource for tourism and biodiversity. Most of the new medicines are developed from compounds found in nature. This makes biodiversity hotspots like coral reefs and rainforests pharmaceutical gold.

This protection of the Reef is going to be best achieved with a strong, independent statutory authority with full decision making powers capable of implementing major conservation initiatives into the future. The GBRMP Authority should retain its independent board and provide recommendations directly to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

What's more, this protection needs to be strengthened. It's no use trying to protect the reef if it is being poisoned with waste and pollution from land or some oil spill covers it in crude. Imagine what a disaster it would be if another Exxon Valdez struck the reef!

The reef only has to be destroyed once and we have lost it for ever. I want to make sure that my children and grandchildren get to experience it.

Yours sincerely,  
Andrew McIver