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Dr Diana Wright
Executive Policy Advisor
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Wright,

RE: GRMPA REVIEW

I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

The tourism industry in the catchment of the GBR is the largest employer (63,000 people) and the second largest dollar earner at \$5.8 billion per year. The industry contributes \$8 million or approximately 25% of the budget for the GBRMPA. By comparison the other users of the reef are quite small.

There is absolutely no doubt that the industry is based on sustainable environmental tourism and the biggest draw card is the Great Barrier Reef and hence, my concern at the possible outcomes of this review.

The GBRMPA is to be congratulated for delivering the Representative Areas Plan (RAP) that has provided protection for 33% of the GBR. This is the most significant environmental protection of an eco system ever achieved in Australia and possibly the world. Unfortunately, it may not be enough but combined with the GBR Water Quality Protection Plan we can only hope that the GBR will recover its resilience and be able to adapt to climate change. No changes to the RAP or its boundaries should be tolerated!

The GBRMPA should continue to answer to the Marine Park Authority (MPA) and the MPA should continue to be empowered to make decisions. It is vital that marine tourism expertise be incorporated into the MPA for strategic planning of this vital industry.



Even in its current setup, GRMPA sometimes suffers from lack of real understanding of some issues involved. The recent example being to issue additional licences for tourist vessels to visit the Great Barrier Reef without at the same time insisting on proper moorings to be used. If such a decision is being made by a body that is usually very close to the needs of the reef it is bad enough. It shows that a more centralised and removed administration would be likely to be even more prone to errors judgement and not be in the position to safe guard the future of the barrier reef both as a resource

Decision making for the GBR should remain with the GBRMPA and the MPA, not with the government in isolation in Canberra. It is vital that the senior decision makers understand the impacts of their decisions and are available to the local communities and this can only occur if they live within our communities and beside our industries.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Werner-Lutrop".

Dirk Werner-Lutrop
Executive Director
DIVERSION DIVE TRAVEL