

Dear Madam/Sir,  
I would like to register my opinion on the review of the Great Barrier Reef Impact Review.

As a voter, I would find any position that will weaken the protection of the great barrier reef indefensible.

I would expect this review to include restrictions on any intensive aquaculture in the surrounding areas that could affect the diversity of the reef fauna.

Aside from all of the waste food and algal blooms from nutrients, thousands of fish escape from Aquaculture pens on a regular basis, most of them predatory.

It is not enough to protect just the immediate area. The surrounding area must also be preserved from intensive trawling, the risk of maritime oil spillage and oil exploration.

Having worked as a geologist offshore from Barrow Island in the North West Shelf and other places, I am well aware of what responsible practices there are on an exploration rig. I have seen huge slicks of oil from the hydraulic drilling fluid go unreported. These sort of accidents are not just possible, they are inevitable.

The Australian public will take a very dim view of any decisions made that have weakened the protection for one of our greatest icons and a drawcard for our tourist industry.

The public might not take an interest now, but they will take a lively interest after the fact of an accident and a subsequent enquiry and media feeding frenzy

I would not like to be in the position of where the buck stops when the worst has happened and further sections of the reef are made sterile through mismanagement.

regards,

Greg Mathews