

AMCS/WPSQ (Bayside) – MORETON BAY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Environment groups respond to Moreton Bay plan fishing pressure

Minister McNamara spoke about a delicate "balancing act" when he visited the Redlands last week to accept petitions from about 1400 residents concerned about planned green zones.

However, conservationists countered, reminding us that Minister McNamara had already received well over 6000 formal conservation submissions that supported him protecting at least 30% of Moreton Bay in Marine National Park zones, and since then an additional 3000 signatures supporting high levels of protection, mostly tourists who paid money to visit Moreton Bay.

Simon Baltais from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland said "The minister must listen to the voice of the wider voting population. Moreton Bay is under intense pressure and it needs high levels of protection. The majority of locals and visitors support this, and the minister knows it".

Craig Bohm from the Australian Marine Conservation Society added "The science is clear, if you want a healthy economy and community you must have a healthy environment, world class protection zones will ensure the region will prosper and allow people to continue to enjoy Moreton Bay and its wildlife. That is why the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and Tangalooma Island Resort have supported our calls for high levels of protection".

Environment groups also issued this warning.

"A failure to deliver a comprehensive protection plan for Moreton Bay will be viewed badly by the majority of bayside residents on election day. They are the ones who really see the pressure being exerted on Moreton Bay. They find the dead turtles and watch the degradation of the seagrass beds and fish populations. The community is looking for political representation that will guarantee our natural resources will be there for generations to come, will be able to fair climate change impacts and will provide reasonable outcomes for our native wildlife, anything less isn't good enough", Baltais concluded.

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