

Submission:

I write to add my voice to the myriad other Australians demanding that more sustainable fisheries management be implemented in Australian waters. We have seen the destruction of the Gladstone harbour fishing industry, we have successfully prevented the 'Super Trawler' from "trawling" pristine Tasmanian waterways..for now..and it is time for transparent, well researched debate about how best to update our marine ecosystem management for both the current climate, and the future.

We have seen the logging industry struggle, then evolve and adapt to changes in the industry and environment over the past 30 odd years. It is time to use the expertise we have in Australia, as well as the experience we have, to create a sustainable fisheries management system that supports long-term preservation of our environment and supports the necessary changes to the industry.

To quote the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry mission statement:

"Australia's federal, state and territory governments manage fisheries on behalf of the Australian people through consultation with the fishing industry, scientists, economists and other user groups, such as those that represent traditional fishing, recreational fishing and the environment. These management processes are used to implement controls, such as limits on catch or effort levels, and regulations regarding fishing methods in order to manage Australia's fisheries in a sustainable way."

We need to look to our world class marine science experts, use the information we have, and adapt our management systems to ensure we keep fishing and enjoy our stunning waterways and marine ecosystems for the future. The first step is a permanent ban on all Super Trawlers.

The alternative as I see it is; continue to ignore the evidence, bury our heads in the sand and hope for the best..? ..(changing the name of the boat to something more appealing could work?)

That isn't leadership Tony Burke.

Now is the opportunity to show great leadership. Australians would be proud to be seen not only as the island-nation with the most spectacular beaches in the world, and world class natural wonders like The Great Barrier Reef, but as world leaders in successful, sustainable management of those wonders.

We dont have forever. Now is the time.

Sincerely,  
Alice Jones.