



NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

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MEDIA RELEASE

MARINE RESERVE INDEPENDENT REVIEW SUPPORTED

The National Seafood Industry Alliance (NSIA) has welcomed the Government announcement of the independent panels for the scientific review of Commonwealth Marine Reserves. NSIA applauds the Government for actioning its election commitment to undertake the review.

“It is important that the objectives of marine reserves are achievable and that the real risks to the marine environment are addressed,” NSIA Chairman, Mr Grahame Turk said.

“A cost benefit analysis of the Commonwealth Marine Reserve network was not undertaken in the development of the previous draft management plans. Nor was a scientifically credible assessment of the risks posed, not only by fishing but a multitude of other factors.

The dire state of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is testament to what happens when fishing is the only risk addressed. Pollution in many forms, on-land activities and introduced species pose a much greater threat to the marine environment than fishing. Most have no regard for lines on water delineating so-called “protected” areas.”

“Australia’s seafood industry needs certainty and assurance that the Commonwealth Marine Reserves are cost effective and have minimal impact on the production of seafood. The announcement of the review panel is a first step towards achieving this.”

“Food security is a challenge for the world and this independent review needs to consider provisions within the management plan that allow for existing and new sustainable fisheries in the 40% of our oceans now covered by marine reserves.” Mr Turk said.

“The National Seafood Industry Alliance looks forward to contributing to the review process over the coming months.”

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MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

