

Letter to the Editor, Bay Post, in response to Dave Morgan (BayPost 6-4-11) "Fishers applaud election result"

The anti marine park brigade, a veritable goldmine to opportunistic politicians!

I strongly disagree with Dave Morgan that the mass defection of voters from Labor to the Coalition at the recent NSW election was a result of Green policies.(BayPost 6-4-11) Despite Dave Morgan's claims the NSW Greens did not give preferences to NSW Labor at the recent NSW election, for all the same reasons that the overwhelming voters of NSW had rejected Labor. The facts are that we saw a record vote for the Greens in the state seat of Bega despite Dave Morgan describing voters being fed up with Green ideology. It is also a fact NSW Labor has preferred to govern for the last 8 years with the support of the far right political parties like the Shooters and Fishers and the Fred Nile Christian Democratic Party in the Upper House, again contrary to Dave Morgan claims that the Greens kept NSW Labor in power.

Narrow, self-interested individuals like Dave Morgan part of the very vocal but tiny minority groups from the anti marine park brigade represent a veritable goldmine to state politicians like Andrew Constance. Sadly opportunistic politicians like Andrew Constance knows full well that by promising to give this sort of rabble what it wants, regardless of the effect on the greater community, they are more or less guaranteed at least a handful of votes. It is the selfishness and ignorance of minority self-interest groups like the anti marine park brigade that makes such political opportunism such a sure bet. There's not many votes in it, to be sure, but any vote counts and it doesn't require any real intellectual effort.

The individuals involved in the anti marine park brigade might like to think of themselves as some sort of political force but in the end it's all about greed. There are now fish in our marine sanctuary reserves (and why not, they are protected from the same "recreational" fishers who have depleted the waters elsewhere), and if they don't get them, someone else might. Proof (as if it was needed) of this greed is the bag limit, a restriction that had to be imposed because these charming "fisherfolk" would otherwise take as much as they could get without any concept of self-control or moderation. Self-righteous references to grudging compliance with these limits makes it sound like an act of extreme self-sacrifice, yet in the absence of legal repercussions, the anti marine parks brigade would be hauling away fish by the boatload. It's all about self and any suggestion that the opening of marine park sanctuary zones is somehow in the "public interest" is not so much a joke as an insult.

Real political reform in Australia will never occur as long as we have politicians instead of leaders running the country. Leaders lead. They make tough decisions and weather storms of criticism because it is the country they are thinking about, not themselves. The whole country, that is, and not raucous mobs of uneducated and ignorant lobbyists. True Australians (we do exist) love their country and do what they can, however little, to preserve and protect this unique and beautiful land from the ravages of overpopulation (8 million-odd in the 50's to nearly 22

million today!) and ravenous exploitation like the woodchipping of our forests, most of it by overseas companies, all of it aided and abetted by self serving politicians. The anti marine park brigade and the woodchippers do not care about this country. Their attitude is "what's in it for me", while the anti marine park brigade celebrate their victory over the nasty "greenies" (that is, anyone who cares about the health and natural beauty of this country), the politicians who bought them for a handful of votes will be quietly going about the business of selling off our futures.

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