

## Pew dollars liberally flowing



WAFIC Chief Executive Officer, Darryl Hockey says it's time for DBCA to come clean about its relationship and commitments with cashed up Pew

The infiltration of WA government decision-making by US eco-lobby group, Pew, continues.

In an edition of The West Australian on 28 September, Pew placed a full-page colour advertisement advocating for maximum sanctuary areas to be imposed in the proposed south coast marine park.

Remembering that the maps for the proposed marine park and sanctuary zones have yet to be released, so it's surprising to see Pew have so much insight into the details of the proposal before it goes public.

So let's examine the propaganda they are trying to generate in the full knowledge that what they are recommending will violate the socio-economic health of local coastal communities, people's livelihoods will be very seriously damaged, businesses will close and the supply of fresh local fish to the WA community will be permanently lost.

Not to mention the surge in unsustainably-sourced and environmentally-damaging imports from Chinese super-trawlers and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries in developing countries.

It's hard to imagine why the government would allow this interference.

### No marine protection in WA?

Firstly, Pew says that "right now, there is no marine protection in our state waters". Let's read that again. So, Pew advertises that there is no marine protection in state waters.

The truth is that 57 per cent of the state waters of WA are currently being protected in marine parks, and that is expected to soon rise to about 64 per cent with current plans.

Not surprisingly, these New York City based oil billionaires, who undertake overseas advertising so as to secure their US tax benefits, have no understanding about environmental management in Western Australia.

Pew then goes on to say that 91 per cent of West Australians believe marine park sanctuaries are a good idea. Well, if you asked commercial fishers you would probably get a similar result.

But what they haven't tested is whether 91 per cent of people would want sanctuaries if it leads to catastrophic consequences for the families of commercial fishers, the loss of fresh local seafood to the community and negative sustainability impacts due to increased pressures on IUU fisheries.

The concerning thing is that the inference from these foreign cashed-

up lobbyists is that if most people supposedly like marine parks, then the government has the licence to destroy people's livelihoods.

So, this is further proof that these lobbyists do not give a damn about Western Australians. The only KPI they care about is maximising the percentages of marine park sanctuaries without any other care or consideration whatsoever.

It's classic NIMBY thinking. The damage and impacts are not in their US backyard, so what happens out of sight, is out of mind.

They then go on to say that "strong sanctuaries, like at Ningaloo, protect our unique marine life." Well that's interesting, because internal Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) documents show that the number of fish in Ningaloo sanctuaries has actually declined.

Furthermore, the situation in Ashmore Reef shows that shark numbers are surging and small fish numbers are being seriously depleted. It's a bummer when science and facts get in the way of a good fallacy.

Then Pew's full-page advert finishes with the unity team logos from four different environmental organisations, all of which are heavily funded by Pew.

And remember that when Pew recently placed a similar full-page "thank you" advert in the Weekend Australian, the going rate for this is \$100,000.

DBCA is placing Pew and its US dollars ahead of WA communities, WA lifestyle and WA's food security.

And it's time DBCA and the Minister explained why!

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