



Media Release

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For Immediate Release: **Professor torpedoed the Government's marine parks**

Emeritus Professor Robert Kearney gave a damning indictment of the State Government and its Bateman's Bay marine park in his presentation at the Annual Conference of the Australian Society for Fish Biology in Canberra titled "*The Pros and Cons of Marine Protected Areas in NSW: Who's being hoodwinked?*". And Professor Kearney should know what he is talking about, he holds a PhD in fisheries science, is a Doctor of Science in fisheries science, is a member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to Fisheries Research and sustainable fishing, and is a member of the Australian Biodiversity Advisory Committee.

Professor Kearney is not alone in this thinking. He has the support of Richard Tilzey, formerly a principal fisheries scientist with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, who stated recently "Professor Kearney's scathing and informed criticism of the NSW government's marine park program came as no surprise to me. Let's cut to the core of the debate and not nibble around the edges of scientific rationale. From the start of the NSW marine park process, politics have driven the agenda and common sense has been left behind."

AAG president Phil Ingram commented "Attempts at defending the Government's role by Verity Firth, Member for Balmain, and Dr Tony Fleming, Director General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, are nothing more than the continued imprecise generalisations that the Government has been sprouting during the whole marine parks debate. Continued denials of political agendas, poor science and fuzzy logic are all this State Government can do. It's time to put science back into the equation and not political agendas and spin doctoring as has been happening. As the title of Prof. Kearney's paper asks – who is being hoodwinked?"

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