

House of Representatives
Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

Marine Legislation Bill

Proposed amendment

Gareth Hughes, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 105

After *clause 105(2)* (line 7 on page 121), insert:

- (3) After section 37(4), insert:
- “(5) Despite subsection (1), seabed mining in any area described in the Schedule of the Fisheries (Benthic Protection Areas) Regulations 2007 is a prohibited activity.”
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Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Marine Legislation Bill. Currently, bottom trawl fishing and dredging are prohibited activities in benthic protected areas. It is inconsistent to allow seabed mining in these areas, which also has an environmental impact on the seafloor environment. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment recommended in her submission to the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Bill “to consider extending the prohibition on bottom trawling and dredging activities in the benthic protection areas to all activities that would impact on the sea floor” and this amendment addresses the most significant environmental activity to impact the benthic environment in these marine protected areas.
