

Senator Rachel Siewert

Australian Greens Senator for WA

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

# Garrett cuts funding to Marine Coastal Community Network

The Australian Greens today expressed extreme disappointment at the announcement that the Marine Coastal Community Network (MCCN) would no longer be funded by the Federal Government.

“The Caring for our Country program has been a shambles from the start, with a lack of planning framework and longer term investment strategies to ensure projects are integrated and targeted” said Australian Greens Senator Siewert.

“Now, with less than a week before their current funding is due to run out on June 30<sup>th</sup>, the MCCN have been informed that they will not be receiving Federal Government funding.”

In explaining this decision, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has indicated in a letter to MCCN that:

*“The Government appreciates the value of the work that MCCN undertakes but unfortunately it had to take some very difficult decisions in the Caring for our Country transition year to ensure that sufficient funding is available to run a Caring for our Country Open Grants funding round in 2008-09”*

“The Government’s environmental plan seems to consist of cutting funding to successful programs, in order to start afresh in 2008-09. This is madness - we are not learning from years of knowledge and experience,” said Senator Siewert.

“The Caring for our Country program is ill conceived, and hard working organisations such as the MCCN are suffering under Minister Garrett’s badly thought out plan,” she concluded.

**For more information or comment call Chris Twomey on 0407 725 025**

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