

I congratulate the government on following through on the national network of marine protected areas initiated under the Howard government and finally proclaimed in 2012. The initial zoning plan (2012) was based on science that recognized world best practice for marine protection requires at least 30% zoned as IUCN category I or II (i.e. green zones). The independent review instigated by the Abbott government also developed a science based zoning scheme that was reported as being a widely accepted compromise to the initial scheme. The current zoning plan however, does not appear to have any basis in science but is more based on politics. History has demonstrated time and again that when science is ignored in ecosystem management, the ecosystem suffers to the detriment of all. While I support the initial zoning scheme, I call on the government to revise the zoning scheme to that recommended by its own independent expert review.

Our ever increasing harvesting of marine resources will require a robust management system that will ensure sustainability into the future. The currently proposed zoning scheme does not achieve this.

Sincerely,  
Glen Holmes