

Hi Minister,

The ocean means a lot to the 90 families and children that utilise our service.

We know that it is really important to preserve areas of coastline and have marine sanctuaries so that our children have a better future with fish in the sea and shells on the shore.

Therefore, on behalf of the Preschool Community we ask that you **defend the marine sanctuaries** and **DO NOT AGREE** with the recommendation that 97% of waterways within 5 kms of the coast be opened up to fishing operations. This action would be reckless and have a negative impact on fish spawning areas and habitat areas. We **DON'T** want a dead ghost ocean for our children to swim in.

We **OPPOSE** any mining activities in Australian waters as these operations will pollute our beaches. Mining has never been safe and any operations could risk a spill. This is not a good thing - **WE DO NOT APPROVE MINING** in Australian waters.

We only support eco-tourism if tourists are given educational opportunities to help clean up the existing pollutants on our beaches, such as plastics and polystyrene and are taught the value of preserving our oceans.

We firmly **REJECT** any recommendations that support an increase in fishing and mining operations within Australian Marine Parks and we **WANT** an **INCREASE** in Marine Parks and Sanctuaries within Australian waters.

Our children go out on daily walk to our local beach park and participate in clean ups. Here is a sample of what we found in a 25 minute walk:



Our children want to find shells on the beaches not rubbish such is found in this image.

We want oceans full of fish, and clean waters where marine life can flourish.

When you grew up, you would find shells on the beach; what are we leaving to the future generations?

Marine Parks and Sanctuaries should be protected as the ocean gives us life. 2 out of every 3 breaths that we take come from the sea. Two thirds of the oxygen that we breathe is created by marine plants and phytoplankton.

If you upset the delicate balance of the marine ecosystem by allowing mega trawlers and opening up our seas to commercial fishing and mining then the balance is tipped against nature.

I urge you to protect and defend our Marine Parks and Sanctuaries and be campaigning to have greater areas protected.

Our future depends on it.

Regards,

Susie Crick - Director.

## **Planet Early Childhood Learning Centre**

707 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Coledale 2515 phone: 4268 4321

**web:** [www.planetchildcare.com.au](http://www.planetchildcare.com.au)

**email:** [susie@planetchildcare.com.au](mailto:susie@planetchildcare.com.au)

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