

To the Management Planning Committee,

I strongly oppose any relaxation of protected status in marine areas in Australia's oceans. I live on the side of the Coral Sea and know that this area cannot sustain fish stocks under the impact of increased commercial fishing.

One of the Government advocates said the plan was about putting more fish on the tables of Australians but this makes no sense because there is no shortage of fish in markets for those who wish to buy it.

It will actually lead to fish shortages and depletion in a time when stocks are suffering from the effects of ocean acidification and warming, loss of habitat and breeding areas. In the Great Barrier Reef, Cyclone Debbie and warming seas and the imminent threat of pollution from the Adani Mine in the Galilee Basin (which will see 3000-plus ships/year loaded with low-grade thermal coal driven by underpaid and inexperienced pilots) adds to this peril. Adani has also done his best to destroy wetlands of the Caley Valley with the deliberate release of 8 times the permissible level of particulate polluted water.

The fishing zone increase plan will destroy the only thing Australia has got going for it - its clean and green image. It's environmental lunacy and will place the affected areas in the same category as Gladstone - too damaged to support marine life. Our oceans are heading towards becoming dead zones and this will accelerate the process. It will wreck tourism livelihoods on the Reef and the world wonder of the GBR itself.

I urge you to keep these marine areas protected from any more commercial fishing.

Yours faithfully,

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