

Honourable Marine Management team,

When our children were younger we used to regularly snorkel and were members of the Marine Society. It opened another world to us, which is so colourful and beautiful, offering a variety of life that is unseen of. We also spoke to many local fishermen, who all agreed that within 30 years the fish numbers and sizes have decreased or in parts were depleted after e.g. spear fishing competitions. They also agreed that they now catch again more fish in the overflow zones of marine parks, because Marine sanctuaries protect important feeding and breeding areas, and give fish stocks the chance to rebuild and thrive. Every published scientific and government survey of recreational fishers shows a clear majority support sanctuaries. There are so many other recreational water activities, not just fishing, that the tourism industry is thriving on them.

There are still plenty of areas for line fishing and spear fishing. Sanctuaries have been shown to prevent local extinctions and help make coral reefs more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Healthy marine life supports our coastal lifestyle, and a Billion Dollar tourism industry, local business and world-class fishing have flourished around marine sanctuaries. Eco tourism is on the rise worldwide. Backpackers leave millions of Dollars in Australia to see our National Parks.

The review is an expensive, unnecessary duplication of the six rounds of public consultation that lead to the establishment of the marine parks and sanctuaries. There's already been 10 years of science, 606 days of consultation, 750,000 public and stakeholder submissions, with 95% support.

This puts protection for turtles, rays and schools of big fish at risk. Please show your support for marine sanctuaries. Initiated by John Howard's Government in 1998, and finalised by the Labor Government in 2012, our national network of sanctuaries crossed political divides and should be a proud legacy for both Liberal and Labor.

In NSW waters, a chain of underwater mountains, several deep sea canyons and the stunning Lord Howe Island stand to lose vital protections. The majority of people of NSW want to keep marine life protected and line fishing removed from marine sanctuaries in our coastal marine parks.

In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park. **Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.**

Midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

No Government **ever** has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. **It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history.**

Marine parks matter!

Plenty of examples from all over the world have proven that removing predators, endangers the whole ecosystem. In the Yellowstone National Park, they had to reintroduce wolves and suddenly even beavers, otters and other animals multiplied because they feasted on the left-over carcasses or were protected from those predators, which were hunted by the wolves. They also acted as clean-up police for injured or ill animals. The same applies to sharks and large tuna and sword fish. They are keystone species, critically important to the health of our oceans. They play a crucial role in maintaining the balance in marine ecosystems.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting our marine life

Sincerely,

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