

To the people deciding the fate of our marine sanctuaries.

My name is Karina Holden and I have spent the last three years working on a feature film on the ocean called BLUE.

The film looks at this critical moment in our history when the state of our ocean has reached crisis point. Half of all marine life has been lost in the last 40 years. And by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish.

BLUE had its first screening at the United Nations at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly in June 2017. Since then the film has played to sell-out audiences at the Sydney International, Melbourne International and Brisbane International film festivals. **The film opens national in cinemas around Australia on October 12.**

As a marine biologist by training and as film-maker with twenty years experience making environmental films, I have made this feature film knowing this issue has become urgent.

There is a global conversation is happening about the state of our oceans and the critical role marine sanctuaries will play to safeguard our future. There is extraordinary momentum building and audiences are thirsty for films like BLUE that provide hope, solutions and the opportunity for action.

We know marine scientists state that fishing, mining, and other types of exploitation should be prohibited in at least 30 percent of the oceans to protect sea life and the benefits it provides humanity. Australia is now winding back the protection that has been put in place. **This is devastating, backward thinking and irresponsible.**

Having marine sanctuaries allows us to safeguard our future. **Ocean conservation is about ensuring jobs, food security and climate protection – for the long term, not short term gain.** This is the big picture and we need to remember the big picture when we are making decisions impacting our finite planet.

When BLUE premiered to 2000 people in the State Theatre at the Sydney Film Festival in June, it received a standing ovation. People all around Australia have been embracing the message of the film and we have had 30,000 people visit the website since then to find out more about how they can take action on these issues.

When the film opens nationally next month, more and more people around the country will become aware of the precarious state are our marine parks are in. People are becoming increasingly aware and they will begin to speak out against the disastrous decisions being made.

Australia used to be a leader in marine protection. We initiated the moratorium on whales and dolphins. We lead the way on the protection of Antarctica and its surrounding waters. Please don't let us become the world's most backwards nation when it comes to protecting marine habitats. Surrounded by three of the four ocean's of our planet, we have a responsibility not just to our own country – but to the world.

Sincerely,

Karina

Karina Holden | Director of BLUE |
Northern Pictures | 52-54 Turner Street, Redfern 2016 NSW, Australia |

p. +61 2 9331 8131 | m. +61 458 301 559 | www.bluethefilm.org |