

Our oceans and reefs are in grave danger from pollution, especially plastic, overfishing, especially of sharks, and climate change. It would be very, very irresponsible of any government to lessen protections given to the oceans we in Australia are responsible for by removing large areas from Marine National Parks.

Before taking any retrograde action by removing national park protection status from any area designated as Marine National Parks, please really think. Do you want to be the government which will go down in history as the government who basically trashed our oceans and reefs, particularly the Great Barrier Reef? For if protection is removed from any part of such Marine Parks, the oceans, reefs and flora and fauna will suffer and possibly even die.

Please remember that our oceans are finite and already straining under reckless and irresponsible human behaviour. Once our oceans are over-polluted and denuded of plant and animal life, our planet Earth will be in grave danger. Our oceans not only provide enormous benefits to humans but also they are the possible solution to climate change in that they absorb carbon dioxide and, if that carbon dioxide can be sunk to levels below, as I understand it, 1 km, that carbon dioxide is out of the atmosphere for good.

Shirley Bethune,  
Donvale, Victoria