

To whom It May Concern,

I am an Architect from NSW and I work overseas most of the time. I meet numerous people from all over the world at my workplace and the usual anticipated second question after "what's your name?" is "where you're from?". My immediate response is "I am Australian" which usually is followed by a shower of questions and admiration about our beautiful land and well looked after nature. Recently, this admiration is turning into sadness and sympathy specially when our reef, one of earth's wonders, topic is brought up!

You see, the world is already aware of this environmental disaster as it made it to the international media. My usual self rise up in defence of our government by reassuring the audience that "we are doing everything to help and preserve the reef from further damage"!

But when I read news about our government taking areas from the Marine National Park and other reef areas off the reservation so some midwater trawling can be possible, it leaves me utterly shocked and embarrassed with the same government that I so enthusiastically defend.

Our reef and marine life are our national assets and identity. We pride ourselves wherever we are in the world that we have one of the most unique nature in the world and a vigilant guardian watching over it. Now it appears that this guardian is turning a blind eye and even worse making deals to profit from destroying this God given treasure!

I understand that industries need supporting for the country to prosper and some sacrifices need to be made. But I urge you, no I plead with you to not let it be at the cost of our natural treasures. It is part of who we are and loosing it is like loosing our identity.

We are blessed to be a country where an individual of its citizens can raise his voice and the government can hear it. I trust that my voice through my words is heard as I have not lost faith in you. Please find another way even if it is not going to be the straight simple solution and leave the marine reserve areas intact. God knows we need more areas reserved and protected than before...

Kind Regards
Gilbert Greich