

Dear Australian Government,

Anyone who takes an interest in the state of the environment could not be unaware of the immense pressures facing the world's oceans. There have been collapses in many previously prime fisheries over the past 50 years or so, pollution levels are rising, and at the same time population growth puts ever greater demands on the marine environment.

The evidence seems strong that extensive marine sanctuaries help relieve those stresses, and provide safe havens where fish can breed, and over time help replenish stocks in surrounding waters. Governments world-wide need to address conservation matters seriously, and without an eye to the short-termism which seems to plague so much of decision making these days. The long-term health and survival of important marine and terrestrial regions depends on across-party commitment from government; and disengagement from commercial interests, which are notoriously impossible to satisfy, and especially so when those interests sense that governments are not fully committed to the continuing health of the environment.

Yours sincerely,

Ian W. Clarke.