

Hi,

I recently learnt about the current Federal Governments plans to reduce our marine park coverage by 50%.

As someone who has lived by the ocean for most of my life, I have enjoyed the beauty of our sea life through sailing, surfing, scuba diving, fishing and spear fishing.

The idea that a modern government would wind back environmentally sensitive protected areas is terrifying.

In the current climate of rising extinction rates, global over fishing issues and climate change, we need to protect our oceans as much as we can, surely not open up more for fishing.

Our oceans attract millions of tourists each year (namely those visiting the great barrier reef) and hence the millions of dollars they spend on our local economies. We must remember the importance of tourism on our nations stability, we must not cripple to personal and political corruption and destroy the livelihoods of so many which healthy oceans help support.

Further, many studies including those done by the GBRMPA have shown greater marine protection increases the size and health of fish stocks in the area and in turn increases the yields of fisherman.

Please listen to our communities and keep our already functioning and implemented national marine reserve system.

Regards,

Jordan Petzer