

It is inconceivable that government is proposing cuts to protected marine areas. With multiple and increasing threats to our marine environment it is more critical than ever that we protect what we have. Reducing the marine areas is the last thing that we should be doing.

Marine conservation areas are good for industry as well as the general public and tourism. It helps conserve fish stocks - allowing them the opportunity to replenish. The very idea of risking pristine diving spots is selfish and short sighted.

The reintroduction of trawlers is unacceptable. If this in response to depleted fish stocks then that is absolutely the wrong approach. It is overfishing, destructive fishing methods, human caused pollutants (especially plastics) and climate change that is endangering fish stocks. Fishing methods that respect all marine stock and the marine environment is essential.

With climate change upon us our marine environments are particularly vulnerable to assault as already experienced by The Great Barrier Reef which has suffered severe bleaching and coral deaths and will be totally destroyed if Adani's coal mine proceeds - and the 34000+ jobs that depend upon a healthy reef.

Our protected marine areas needs to be expanded, not reduced. There also needs to be stronger laws protecting our oceans from damage and polluters with substantial penalties for "incidents". Action on climate change needs to be urgent and aggressive it can no longer be business as usual. Ocean acidification will lead to the demise of shellfish industries. Severe weather events will put them under physical stressors. Ice melting at the poles not only causes water levels to rise but also upsets the entire balance of life endangering many species.

Do not allow the current protection of marine environments be diluted.

Sincerely

Sandra Reed and Nigel Rice

[Sent fro Yahoo7 Mis in response to depleted il on Android](#)