

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my profound concern with the proposed cutbacks to our national network of marine sanctuaries. That the government is considering such a huge reduction in hectares from marine conservation areas in the face of their own science recommendations is to me deeply concerning and incomprehensibly shortsighted, both environmentally and fiscally.

That only 7 of the Coral Sea's 37 reefs are fully protected and that deep cuts have been made to the Coral Sea's large National Park zone I find deeply disturbing. As Australia's largest fully protected area, and the only one of a size and nature that is able to protect both the giants of the sea and a series of unique and important deep water reefs, I feel this is a terrible lost opportunity for the environment, for marine tourism and for the long term sustainability of Australia's fishing. I am also greatly disheartened that the Government has gone against its own advice and allowed fishing practices like trawling, gillnetting and longlining in 38 of the 44 marine parks.

I believe that on both continental and deeper waters the management of the network must be science based as recommended in the review, with a view to the long term protection and sustainability of these irreplaceable environments.

Yours sincerely
Richard Wright