

THIS IS MY SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT ZONING PLANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH MARINE PARKS

I object strongly to the proposed halving of green sanctuary zones especially in areas of coral reefs, and ask that at the very least, the recommended zoning of the Independent Review be implemented.

All coral reefs are under immense pressure from climate change and ocean warming and it is essential that they be protected from as many other threats as possible to give them a chance to regenerate. The reefs in the Coral Sea need more protection not less. Being further from the coast they are not as impacted from land run-off, sedimentation and algal growth. They are more likely to be able to reseed damaged inshore reefs.

Fishing of any sort is incompatible with proper protection as the ecosystems are affected by the removal of predators and the by catch of other species, many of which are threatened. Turtles, dolphins and many shark species are examples of species that are damaged by line fishing and netting.

The draft zones ignore the recommendations of the Independent Review set up by the Abbott government. The Review recommendations were already a compromise on the original proposed sanctuary zones and despite the protestations that the original plans were "not based on science", it seems the government is not prepared to listen to scientists anyway.

The original plans for Commonwealth waters off the coast of NSW were not consistent with marine protection and have not improve.

yours sincerely  
Jennifer Edwards  
136 Annetts Pde, Mossy Pt NSW 2537