

To Whom It May Concern:

1996: Australia's albeit incomplete marine conservancies were an initiative enacted by the Howard Government [with bipartisan support].

The improvements of 2012 were likewise achieved after intense [and unnecessarily exhaustive] studies, but based on congruence of views from all stakeholders who chose to be considered, especially scientists.

And we plebs were happy. We were happy and hopeful that our precious marine life we depend on for balance, not just in our diet, but in our fragile ecosystem, might just survive and prosper.

2013: Enter Tony Abbot the Destroyer with his fundamentalist, reactionary Paisley-like approach to life and the Universe.

Tony Abbot concludes that now it is OK to waste millions of taxpayer dollars, millions of hours of intellectual effort already expended, OK to disrupt business and households reliant on marine enterprise, in order to lay waste to someone else's good idea.

And Tony surfs, he likes to remind us. But he is no friend of the ocean and I trust it will show no leniency to him either.

Helping to create a great Australian marine conservancy is the only Howard era policy I can recollect that was worth two bob, that hasn't been just an embarrassment to the nation and a huge waste of my tax.

Every other policy from that era lumbers on in its zombie trance, waiting for the passing of John Howard so it may find restful peace at last.

Why does this Good Idea have to be the one to be killed off?

Why not conduct a meaningless billion dollar postal survey on How Do We Feel About Saving the Reef, Protecting Cetaceans, Conserving Crustaceans, Killing Sharks Slowly, or anything you like, if its important to be seen to be doing something futile with taxpayer resources that we may not have much longer [like the fish on our plates]?

Is this just one big In Yer Face to the burgeoning sharks from a wannabe Ironman?

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