

Hello,

I am amazed and shocked at the Government's plans to wind back our vitally important marine sanctuaries... for what... more hoovering up the seas for greed, more oil drilling or coal transporting? Some areas need to be sanctuaries for our oceans to recover to allow their rich diversity to flourish and re-populate and recover other damaged areas.

In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. Why? The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park - its a sacrilege. Why have Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether? when we need a joined up reef system to be protected to allow species to breed unmolested and re-populate other areas under pressure.

Why are you allowing midwater trawling to be reintroduced to plunder these valuable areas, when greed has plundered all the other fisheries, so these are all that is left? Now you intend to open these up for pillage too? Its not good enough...

**These are our much valued areas the people of Australia's... you are the custodians we trusted with looking after them for us, but now you intend to renege on that promise. Its not good enough...**

Why will it now be possible for longlining to start again at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve? ... and continue all the way to the northern boundary, when long lining is proven to be harmful to many seabirds, sea creatures, protected sharks and other species.

**No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history and be sure the UN and the world will be told about such shameful acts... an indelible stain on our country's credibility overseas and internally.**

These protections were kindly put in place for us and our environment to thrive five years ago and they have responded well to protection. I and many others will never stop fighting to protect them.

Please re-think this backward, damaging policy and leave them alone, protected forever, which is what the Australian people expect now and expected then when they were created. Its far too easy to brake and damage things as this government well knows, its had too much practice... its far harder to cherish and protect the vulnerable and build things back up into thriving communities once more. We want to see more of that around Australia, not just in our seas but on our land swell, re-vegetation of downgraded areas, re-instatement of valuable wetlands, re-growth of important habitats and protection of vulnerable areas under threat.

Will you help the Australian people and do this for us and for your nation... please?

Thanks in anticipation... I'll be watching the news, so I hope you think again and help these vulnerable areas that need protection.

Mike Willson.