

I am distressed at the Government's plan to cut back the areas protected in marine national parks.

I am particularly concerned about cuts to protection in the Coral Sea at a time when there is severe coral bleaching in much of the region's coral reefs. Scientific evidence supporting an increase in protections for marine life has been ignored. We still know so little about our oceans and should protect as much as we can from over-fishing.

Once again the Government is putting commercial interests ahead of protection of the natural environment. As well as large areas of the Coral Sea, sanctuary protections off the coast from Western Australia, the Northern Territory and NSW will lose or have their protection downgraded to make way for an expansion of long-line fishing and seafloor trawling which have been shown to damage the conservation value of the oceans.

I ask the Government not to proceed with these drastic cuts to marine national parks.

Regards,

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