

For the benefit of our nation and our marine life, please retain our essential Marine National Parks

It is of much concern that the Turnbull government, has once again, set its face against reason with its illogical proposal to greatly reduce our essential Marine National Parks and reservations which protect species such as sea birds, dugongs, turtles, dolphins, wales etc and our fishing stocks against predation by the over-fishing of longline and midwater trawling and 'factory' trawlers that are greatly reducing our fishing stocks. And, for the Turnbull government to bewilderingly propose this at a time when we are all aware of the dire effect that temperature induced warmer waters, due to climate change, is causing corals to become thermally stressed, causing broad scale coral death, beggars belief.

Coral reefs, such as the Great Barrier Reef, are essential to the formation and preservation of marine life because they form habitats for thousands of species, fish and molluscs.

Moreover, its still too early to know what impact Climate Change will have on fish stocks and marine life generally. Will marine life simply move to colder parts of the ocean, or perhaps, towards the poles? Nobody knows. Clearly, in such a scenario, a prudent proactive government would be duty bound to adhere to the precautionary principle and maintain the national marine parks that were wisely put in place by an earlier government and not open them up to plundering, loss of important by-catch, and depletion by foreign 'factory' ships such as the 'Geelong Star' that, until it was hunted, had been operating in the pelagic fishery, and then selling their fish stock overseas, with nothing made available to Australians. At that time, concerns were raised not only about the impact the ship was having on local fisheries and tourism, but also, the diversity of marine life.

Surely, the lessons learnt should have taught, the government, that its time to cherish the marine life and fish stocks, that we have by dint of our marine reservations, and not open them up to predation by foreign raiders, that like many of our mineral and CSG extraction miners, pay the government absolutely zilch tax and royalties, whilst depleting our natural resources.

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