

Conserve, share, provide

To Minister for Environment

RE Our Marine Park

We wish to voice our great concern over what amounts to destroying our Marine Parks.

Your governments intentions to wind back protections in our oceans is worse than we feared. The draft management plans make Australia the only country in the world that is winding back its protections for the ocean.

The largest network of marine parks was only put into place by the Labor government in 2013 protecting over 2.3 million square kilometres of our vulnerable oceans. The network included natural wonders like the Coral Sea and Perth Canyon and was based on the latest current science and extensive community consultation.

The Liberal Government led by Tony Abbott and now Malcolm Turnbull is now continuing to attack and destroy them.

The Turnbull government's scheme for the Coral Sea halves the area the area placed in Marine National Parks. Reefs like Marion Reef and Osprey Reef have had their protections stripped away, despite being one of the top dive sites in the world. Shark Reef and Verna Reefs have devastatingly been taken out of Marine National Park altogether.

Midwater Trawling is to be reintroduced and it will now be possible for longlining to begin at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the Northern boundary.

It's the largest step backwards in areas under conservation in history.... taken by this Government as they remove this many hectares from conservation.

It is hoped that our future Labor government will not allow backward steps on our ocean protection and will fight against them, but will add any new areas added to conservation, where some may be applicable.

Yours sincerely,

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