

Dear Minister and advisers,

I and I imagine thousands, maybe millions, of Australians can't understand why you want to reduce the protected areas of the seas surrounding Australia. Have you all no children or grandchildren who will inherit the earth as we leave it? Do you want them to understand that you did not care what you handed down to them? Are a few jobs and a miniscule change in GDP enough to compensate for all the mindless damage that will occur to our natural environment as a result of reducing the protected area?

Our generations cannot say that we expected entrepreneurs to go easy on the earth or to self-regulate. Just look at the evidence. Most of us cannot find a single case where self-regulation has produced industries with no negative externalities which are happily passed on to be borne by other parties. Such is the nature of personal ambition and a desire for maximum return on investment.

Please reconsider the plans for reducing the protected marine areas.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Diana Beal