

To whom it concerns,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Wildlife Protection Council, to state that our position is to expand the nations network of protected marine national parks and sanctuaries. It is concerning to us that recommendations have been made to reduce these area's. Further to this we are very disappointed that in 2014 the Australian government suspended these parks.

In 2004 I attended the Coast to Coast Conference, Hobart. For myself it was a real eye opener to learn about our coasts and oceans. That year the key note speaker was renowned marine biologist Dr Sylvia Earle. Who talked about protecting and saving our oceans. One of the more fascinating aspects of the talk was about tuna and their role in the environment. Up until this point I had never really given tuna a second thought about them. As such I followed Dr Earle's campaign to save the worlds oceans with a keen interest. I also learnt at this conference that Australia was a world leader in reserving marine national parks and sanctuaries. Since then Australia has reserved more of our seas, bays, inlets, reefs and the plants and animals that call them home. I am not one generally to be patriotic however in this instance there was I was certainly proud that my home country was a world leader in the protection of the worlds life support systems, being the oceans. That was until this present government's suspension of the parks and current recommendations to reduce the protected areas.

Dr Earle's mission is to reserve the worlds oceans like that of National parks on land, and we at the Australian Wildlife Protection Council support this approach to reserve 20% of the worlds oceans by 2020. More recently a documentary was released call Mission Blue (in which our country gets a mention), I strongly urge everyone to watch this. For 20% of the worlds oceans to be reserved for protection to happen. Australia should continue to lead by example and expand our marine park network.

Kind regards

President  
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