

Hi

I have read that there is a proposal to cut back the marine sanctuaries in and around the Great Barrier Reef. This concerns me greatly.

i moved to Cairns from London 15 years ago. I had scuba dived here quite a few times before moving here permanently. Now firmly settled with two young children my dive days are very few and far between. I was lucky enough to be invited on a trip a few months ago and went diving for the first time in 8 years.

I dived and I cried (lots).

The devastation and degradation of the environments I went to on the two day trip was stark and a huge wake up call to me and my partner (a former dive instructor here).

Now is the time to do more (so much more) not less.

Personally, we have dramatically altered our lifestyle as a result of this trip. We have installed solar for all our electrical needs. We have reduced our waste significantly. We have switched financial institutions to ones that actively support ethical investment and, as a family, we have actively campaigned to protest against the Adani coal mine which, simply, should not be allowed to happen.

I expect the government, elected politicians, corporations and general public to do the same. By that I mean to make an effort to change, to invest in my children's future, to invest in our planets future.

The reef and its marine parks are out back yard. They are already damaged beyond belief. We need to look after them and try to nurture them back to health not destroy them further.

I am a 'normal' person who has realised our elected representatives have let us down badly in relation to climate change. I am old enough to believe that 'people still have a voice'. I hope you will hear mine and respect my wishes.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Dianne Willcocks