

To whom it may concern,

I call for the Turnbull Government to fully restore and increase the IUCN II zoning in Australia's Marine Parks without delay.

As emphasised at the recent World Conservation Congress, industrial activities like mining and mining exploration are not compatible with marine parks.

Loss of Marine National Parks will lead to loss of ocean health, resilience and stability ("Plan to 'gut' marine parks" SMH 24/7/17).

Destructive types of commercial fishing put at risk the benefits that marine parks provide, not only for marine life, but also more broadly to tourism, recreational fishing and other types of commercial fishing that can operate sustainably inside parks alongside high level MNPZ zoning.

In the face of devastating coral bleaching, mangrove dieback and vanishing kelp forests, MNPZ coverage in Australia's Marine Parks are even more important now than ever.

There is a need for undisturbed habitat to protect endangered species such as grey-nurse sharks and various species of fish and reef-building coral species. Protection is also needed for important breeding, foraging and feeding areas for several species of seabird including the little tern.

Each marine park should have adequately sized and located zones of high level MNPZ protection

Despite finding that highly protected marine parks are vital as a key tool in marine management, the Government has failed to act on its own advice, missing the opportunity to deliver a science-based result in the Temperate East.

## **Recommendations**

The following are my recommendations to the Government in relation to the redrafting of the Temperate East marine region management arrangements: -

1. I support the Government's proposal to increase protection from mining in the **Central Eastern, Jervis and Hunter Marine Parks**;
2. I reject the proposal removal of MNPZ protection at the long standing highly protected **Middleton Reef in the Lord Howe Marine Park**;
3. I reject the proposal to remove the new MNPZ over the Vening Meinez Fracture Zone in the **Norfolk Marine Marine Park** which was recommended for MNPZ protection by the Government's Review;
4. I reject the proposal to downgrade protection from mining in **Norfolk and Lord Howe Marine Parks** which the Review recommended be protected as yellow Habitat Protection Zone.
5. **I call on the Government to adopt the CSIRO recommendations for each marine reserve to contain at least one MNPZ**, with a particular focus on ensuring that the shelf, continental slope and seamounts are better represented with MNPZ coverage.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Macdonald, Randwick NSW 20/09/17

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- *Liz*