

To whom this may concern,

I am a marine conservationist and environmental educator and am deeply concerned about the Turnbull Government's recent plans to cut almost 40m hectares of marine sanctuary areas. Through my work with the Wilderness Society (SA) and more recently with Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries, I have been actively involved for the past 8 years in community consultation, raising awareness and gaining community support for the implementation of the Marine Park systems and sanctuary zones.

I am very proud of our 44 Marine Parks and would like to see these increase rather than decrease to further enhance the important role they play in marine habitat and species conservation.

The Government's independent Review recognised the extensive science and consultation that led to the creation of the 40 parks in 2012. However, the Turnbull Government's draft management plans recommend reducing, relocating and in most cases completely removing the MNPZ protection over key habitats, particularly in the globally important Coral Sea. 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.

The Government's own Expert Science Panel found that marine parks declared in 2012 were the result of sound science and consultation. Further, leading scientists found that the 2012 network would need more marine sanctuary coverage, not less (eg: Barr and Possingham, *Are outcomes matching policy commitments in Australian marine conservation planning?* Marine Policy 42, 39-48 2013).

I trust that you will take the necessary action to overturn such a mindless proposal to open to 38 of the 44 Marine Parks to trawling, gillnetting and longlining, with 33 open to mining, and 42 exposed to the construction of pipelines. In total defiance of the scientific advice upon which the original system was designed, 16 marine parks will now have no sanctuary zones at all.

Kind regards

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