

To the people responsible for making the best decisions for the long term sustainability of our Coral Sea Reefs.

As one of the longest time users of the Coral Sea reefs ( from 1985 until now) I believe that your reducing the protection of Osprey reef is an ill conceived act and will have negative long term outcomes:

1. You are not considering the cost benefit analysis of managing our marine assets
2. You are jeopardizing the long term sustainability of the live aboard dive industry
3. You are destroying the already established opportunity for cost effective research access via the tourism dive boats. Undersea Explorer, Eye to eye Marine Encounters and Mike Ball Dive Expeditions and other CHARROA vessels.
4. You are actively supporting the reduction of bio diversity of this "jewel in the crown of the coral sea reefs".
5. You are allowing the reduction of the very animals the international documentaries come to Aust to film. National geographic, BBC, NHK, ZDF, Channel +, and David Attenborough etc.

Palau, Fiji , Cocos Island, South Africa and the Galapagos have all recognized the value of adventure and shark diving and have put in management measures to protect the sustainability of these tourism industries. Please note "shark diving" in Fiji is worth 40 million dollars ( &% of GDP) to their economy every year.

The Game fishing and spear fishing charters to Osprey are Infrequent ( so of minimal commercial value to the operators and they can go to Holms reef and ( with only a few charters in very recent years compared to the 20+ years of weekly dive industry use) but with highly probably devastating impact on the dive industry. Allowing extractive use of these reefs is extremely damaging to the sustainable of the dive industry. Every Tuna, Marlin, Sailfish, coral trout, and Shark that is killed reduces the sustainability of the long term established " best practice" dive industry. A live shark ( people can dive with every week ) is worth hundreds of thousand of dollars in its life time for the tourism industry. If Queensland and Australia protects these bio diversity assets then as the rest of the world wipes out their marine assets ours will become even more valuable in the years to come.

Now is the time to set up the frame work so we have fish assets into the future. The most negative impact is from spear fishing (recreational or charter) and this activity has the real potential to wipe out the mega fauna assets the sustainable dive vessels bring people to see. Also please note that even though the spear charter people say that they do not "target " sharks, they often do kill them when they pose a threat to them selves or when the sharks are eating their fish.

I concur with Mike Ball Dive Expeditions and the CHARROA submissions on this coral sea issue.

Thank you for considering my appeal for working for a better future.  
John Rumney

### **Eco Certified Advanced Ecotourism / TQUAL**

2017 Australia Day Citizen of the Year - Douglas Shire - John Rumney

2013 *Australia's Most Profound Wildlife Experience:*

Minke Whale Expeditions: 1st in Queensland, 3rd in the nation

2012 Ecotourism Australia Medal for "Individual Excellence" - John Rumney

2012 Runner-up / Planet Whale Global "Responsible Whale Watching Operator"

2011 National Geographic Traveler Magazine "50 Tours of a Lifetime"  
2011 Tropical Innovations Awards: Eco Innovation & People's Choice

Eye to Eye Marine Encounters (Wild Reefs Pty Ltd)

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**John Rumney**  
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**GREAT BARRIER REEF**  
**LEGACY**

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There are no *Barriers* too *Great* to saving our *Reefs!*