

Dear Minister Frydenberg,

As a committed Liberal member, I am sorry that I must write to you, but I have been alerted to the fact that this Liberal government for some crazy reason, is reducing the size of marine parks and allowing longline trawling again. Why? These marine protections have been put in place for very good reasons – that is, to preserve at least some of our sealife.

Trawling is a disaster around the world so now they've come to Australasia because there's not much left anywhere else. A few years ago there were demonstrations and remonstrations with the then Labor government to stop the trawlers and they did, **by listening to the people, of all political persuasions**. At the last Federal election in Tasmania some of the Liberals lost their seats, one being Eric Hutchinson, a fantastic politician for the Lyons electorate, in fact the best for twenty years, and part of that loss was due to strong canvassing from people who supported saving the marine parks and the policy of no trawling, I can't remember the party's name, but no matter. How can the policy be reversed in such a short time?

Already around the east coast of Tasmania the kelp forests have virtually gone, which were once the habitat of much of the coastal sea life, so marine parks are a good reason to try to encourage new growth of the flora and fauna. I have friends who have told me that at night they are able to see predator trawlers along the east coast, even going into the marine park area near them, but monitoring takes place as well, so they don't always get away with trespassing.

When I was a child and we fished, bays were abundant with fish, if we had had six hooks on our lines we could easily have caught six fish, we did manage four, but those same places are virtually devoid of anything now. It is so sad, in fact a tragedy, and demonstrates how easily we lose things, probably never to return, unless there are reserves to allow increase and renewal.

So all these arguments apply also to any areas managed, and supposedly protected, by Australia.

**I urge you to proceed with great caution when changing a recently fought for policy**, and to rethink what is happening. Diminishing the size of marine parks will negate the opportunity for renewal and regeneration, because sea life does not know boundaries, so there must be an expanse for the true intention and purpose. It probably does cost quite a sum to maintain the areas, but it is worth it. We were on the Barrier Reef last year and a lot of that is not the pristine Reef I saw long ago. I am not a true believer of climate change, and believe that the reefs are somewhat damaged by human intervention, so they don't need mine residue dumped on them either.

Help keep the Liberal party in government and reconsider or consider very carefully what is at stake.  
Regards

Alison Parsons

[a.e.parsons4@bigpond.com](mailto:a.e.parsons4@bigpond.com)

5/10 Finlay Street,

Battery Point, Tasmania

,

Alison