

Dear Department of the Environment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I do not support the proposed approach which amounts to a winding back of marine protections. It is an approach consistent with vested interests in industry and one which is replicated on land with the clearing legislation, particularly in QLD and NSW which is being watered down.

I know the environment doesn't 'vote'. However, we have a responsibility to protect it.

Not all red tape is bad. Basic theory on the role of government provides them the responsibility for protecting the public interest - the environment, our waterways. The oceans, and the marine parks that we as a community have established and enjoy should not fall to a divided and destructive government to undo.

This is ALL about appeasing vested interests and NOT AT ALL about the wider interests of Australia and our precious biodiversity.

We need to protect and preserve our biodiversity. Not turn it into a short term commercial resource to be depleted and destroyed in a short time.

Protecting only the Seafloor is completely irresponsible and wilfully myopic.

We need to protect all species. Our large species require the Sea Column itself to be protected. We need to protect our whale sharks, our whales, sharks, turtles and dolphins.

I do not understand why this government refuses to have any long term view. Industry depends on the environment. Environmental protections ENABLE industry to be sustainable they should not be viewed as an impediment but an enabler.

Please work to retain existing environmental protections. We have to think long term about this. Industry are largely incapable of looking beyond the immediate bottom line. If industry were to be listened to as a key stakeholder then we wouldn't need governments whose role is to intervene and protect the broader national interest.

This is a serious issue. We must think for the long term. It is too late after we have destroyed everything.

Thank you

Barbara Mary