

Director of National Parks, Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concerns about the harsh and ill-thought-out cutbacks to National Park zone protection in Australia's marine parks network.

It is essential that there be adequately sized and located National Park Sanctuaries on both the continental shelf and in deeper waters;

I am in full support the draft management plans which were declared in 2012. Indeed, I was really pleased when these plans were published, as, at last, this country was really trying to protect marine habitat.

It defies logic to legislate National Park zone areas be made smaller (such as Lord Howe Marine Park),

It defies logic to plan for National Park zone areas be moved to areas of far less ecological importance.

It defies logic for the Government to ignore the Review's recommendations for additional National Park zone areas such as in the Norfolk Island Marine Park.

Why would this Government ignore the findings of its own Independent Review, proposing dramatically less National Park zone protection than the Review recommended?

The claim by the government that Habitat Protection zones are equal to National Park zones, does not bear scrutiny.

Respectfully, I ask that the Government rethink its actions so that no marine National Park zone areas declared in 2012 are removed or reduced.

Respectfully, I ask that new marine National Park zones are declared, in the Norfolk Island Marine Park as recommended in the Review.

Respectfully, I ask that every marine park under Review be afforded an adequately sized and located National Park zone. The current situation is 16 of the 44 have none.

And, most importantly and critical to their protection, I request that all marine parks on the completion of their management plans be fully protected from oil and gas mining.

Yours faithfully, Carole Baker Unit 2, 96 High Street, North Sydney 2060