

To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not cut back the National Network of Marine Park boundaries that were drawn up in 2013. Here's why:

We have already run this race, we already engaged community, industry and got bipartisan support for places like the Coral Sea Marine Park in 2013. But then the backwards Abbot Gvmt suspended them.... Now we are wasting time, money and our environment having to go through the whole thing again. In light of the recent and devastating coral bleaching, the health of places like the Coral Sea becomes even more important because it will help restock the biodiversity lost over the past few years.

I think it's important to know that it's not just about saving a pretty reef..... its about maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem which has flow on effects throughout many industries.

Not only will the dive industry benefit from higher protection but there will be flow on effects for other businesses like accommodation, restaurants, land based tours and services. It has also been shown that 'ecotourists' (people interested in seeing the most pristine sites and care about their impacts) spend twice as much as other visitors.

Sanctuaries are not restrictions they are actually enhancements – they help the community have sustainable tourism, fishing and boating industries. They play a critical role in looking after our fishing stocks – they act as an insurance policy. To slash our marine sanctuaries would be a dangerous and ill-fated decision for our marine life, economy and all of humanity.

Regards Jenna