

Dear Submission Panel,

Why are we even discussing this?

It's late 2017 and Australia continues to lag behind the global agenda.

Australia - hailed as a nation of exquisite natural beauty - is going to be increasingly reliant on tourism. Cutting marine parks will be an international embarrassment. We're already watching the Great Barrier Reef die, this is further sanctioning of the destruction of marine life will send our greatest asset down the drain.

New Zealand is internationally known as being clean and green, but we're sabotaging our own reputation.

To my knowledge, no nation in the world has cut back its marine parks ... although Donald Trump is looking at cutting back environmental reserves known as national monuments. Do we want to sit with Trump or the civilised world?

Please, please don't cut back marine parks. This shouldn't be about ideological point scoring or a quick grab for cash, it should be about future-proofing biodiversity for our children.

This is so tiring.

Augusta Miller