

Dear Minister Frydenberg,

I am extremely concerned at the proposed changes to our Marine Parks and Reserves.

It appears that the government is determined to make Australia the world leader in environment destruction and in winding back environmental controls that protect our delicate ecosystems. All other countries in the world are looking at increasing their reserves due to their interconnected nature.

It was proven in places like the Galapagos, where they had to expand the Marine reserve to ensure that marine species like sharks had both their nurseries and breeding grounds protected, these are often two different areas. Australia is no different.

In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park. Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether. This is not acceptable, it will seriously impact the marine species native to our waters!

It is ludicrous that in an already over fished environment, that midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

Please look forward to the long term protection of our country and reconsider these changes!

Kind regards,

Penny Walker