

Dear Sir or Madam

The ocean is the start of life. And the ocean continues to nourish us, providing recreation and employment through tourism, and protecting us from climate change as it absorbs CO2.

From the tiniest phytoplankton, algae, krill to the biggest whales, squid, crustaceans and fish - they all now require us to look after this one world we all inhabit.

Reducing marine parks and sanctuaries is a totally backward step. The short term interests of commercial fishing and whaling are proven: look to the northern hemisphere where the herring and cod are all but gone. The whales are only now making a comeback after whaling was banned. Increasing commercial fishing areas will have a greater economic impact in the longer term. There are such a lot of unknown issues about the ocean that 'sustainable' fishing becomes a nonsense.

There is no excuse to reduce the size of marine parks and sanctuaries.

Marine parks and sanctuaries need to increase in size so that fish and other creatures can safely migrate from warming waters.

We need to encourage the appreciation of the oceans and seas from which life came.

Heritage listing and special places identified as sanctuaries need to be honoured and respected for us and all future generations.

Do not let short term economics and politics destroy what we have identified as worthy of conservation. "...There was a strong and consistent message from many stakeholders that the previous consultations that led to the establishment of these reserves had been lengthy and comprehensive..." (extract from the Review)

Please advise me of your deliberations and the Government's decision.

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