

I am forwarding this submission because I am totally opposed to the current Federal Government's proposal to radically reduce the size of Australia's marine protected areas and the substantial diminution of regulatory controls of fishing in these areas.

I am a long term resident of Cairns so I have a particular interest in the Coral Sea marine conservation area. However, my concerns still extend to other areas affected by the Federal Government's proposals around our nation.

The benefits of marine protected areas are very clearly established by countless scientific studies. It is not just the protection of marine life but also the long term sustainability of commercial fishing activities.

If you add the economic impact upon Australia's tourism industry by trashing its environmental reputation and branding as a 'green' destination, something that is integral to the marketing of the Great Barrier Reef and North Queensland generally, the Government's case for its proposed changes is clearly unsustainable.

In this age of social media, there is no doubt that a decision to radically downsize marine protected areas and associated regulations will spread around the globe in an instant.

I would urge to listen to the experts, marine scientists, experts on sustainable fishing and marine resource harvesting and economists and come up with sensible recommendation for the long term.

There is a well understood principle of inter-generational equity. Do what is right for our children.

Yours sincerely

Rowan Silva

Sent from my iPhone