

Cut-backs in Marine Conservation Zones

I hope this message will be read by someone who will take notice: this is a deeply felt personal message.

I have always loved nature and count some of my childhood memories at the beach and in the bush among my happiest.

It has only been in my later years that I have been able to visit the Great Barrier Reef and wonder in delight at its rich diversity.

My scientific knowledge is relatively limited, but I do know that diversity and adequate reserves are essential for maintaining the ecological life support systems we all depend on.

Arguments about sustainable fishing and jobs just aren't credible when compared to the value of the ecosystem services of these reserves and the low impact of tourism, which already provides so many jobs.

It frustrates me that the government is bowing to pressure from the fishing industry and seems unable to take a long-term perspective.

All these concerns come together for me when I consider my grandchildren. I spent a very happy day caring for my nearly 2-y-o granddaughter who was delighted by a tee-shirt I brought back from Thursday Island - with a turtle design. To think that she might not have access to the same rich environments as I have leaves me very sad.

Please, I passionately hope that the present government will not proceed with it's plans to wind-back current marine protection.

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