

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.

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. No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history.

I call on the Government to take no backwards steps in protecting the ocean. The plans which have been released by the Australian Government will make Australia the only nation in the world to be actively reducing its protections for the ocean.

There is no precedent in history for an area so large to be taken out of conservation. Please, I call on the Government to retain the level of protection that was enshrined in Australia's Marine Park Network in 2013.

Kind regards

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