

I am writing this submission as I am extremely concerned about the Governments plans to cut marine protection. Among other threats our oceans are facing unprecedented threats from climate change, ocean acidification & plastic pollution & need all the protection we can give them. I am appalled to hear that under the proposed changes the Coral Sea, one of Australia's largest marine sanctuaries, known for its abundance of spectacular oceanic wildlife including sharks, tunas and whales, would have its area of protection halved. I also understand that this is the case for Marion Reef too and even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world which would have half its area removed from the Marine National Park. Shark and Vema Reefs would be taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether. The prospect of midwater trawling being reintroduced is very disturbing and to allow longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary would be totally irresponsible. If these plans go through, it will be the largest downgrade of a protected area in the world. This is a massive step back for a nation that was once seen as a leader in marine conservation.

Yours faithfully,
Robert L Bradley