

I have heard through a number of sources, the current government intends to reduce the size of Australia's marine parks and other conservation areas.

As a citizen and a scientist, I do not want this retrograde policy to be implemented. It is an awful waste of public servant time and energy, better spent on protecting fragile marine environments from human pressures such as agricultural eutrophication, climate change and over fishing.

I want our children to benefit from conservation of our marine environment. I would be surprised to find that the short term gains from fishing and mineral exploration outweighs other environmental services and amenity provided by our protected reefs and oceans.

According to the Australian institute of marine science the blue economy is already booming (more than \$74 billion) with growth expected to continue. This growth can happen without needing to take a backwards step on marine conservation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Luke Hendrickson