

To whom it may concern,

The Government's plans to cut back marine conservation areas by up to 50% is appalling. Never before have such cuts been made, and for very good reason. As a species, humans rely on the oceans for food, carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling. As a nation, Australia depends on our oceans for our very significant tourism industry as well as for our status as a global leader in wildlife protection.

There is NOTHING more important than protecting our oceans. Perhaps the economic benefits of reopening exploitation activities in these areas seem to be worth the loss of biodiversity, biomass, natural integrity and natural beauty that would occur, but this would only be in the very short term. No complete long term analysis would support the closure of these conservation areas. A government thinking in the very short term is a government I do not support, and, a government Australia does not need.

On behalf of your citizens, reconsider the closure of these areas. Australia is gifted with unparalleled natural beauty that could bring both prosperity and international respect, depending on how it is managed. Do not squander this gift.

Regards,

G. Rowan