

As an Australian I am distressed to find that scientific evidence supporting an increase in protections for marine life has been ignored and the area of full conservation protection for Australia's marine parks is being halved.

Protection of Australia's ocean wildlife is not consistent with activities such as commercial fishing and oil and gas exploration. The recent widespread coral bleaching around Australia and other threats to the health of the oceans underscores the need to maintain and increase, not reduce, protections now in place for current and future generations.

I urge the government to reconsider the proposed plans, to at the very least maintain the current full conservation protections in Marine Parks and to implement policies that safeguard the health and the biodiversity of the oceans surrounding Australia.

Mary Abel