

To Whom It May Concern,

As a concerned citizen and mother of two, I am absolutely furious at the current state of play with the government's marine reserve planning. As I understand it, the current proposal is to wind back the area of protection by 50%, which, in light of the effects of climate change, is both bewildering and appalling.

At a time when we're experiencing irreversible bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, swathes of mangrove forests dying on our northern shores, and the disappearance of kelp forests on the west coast, we need to be taking action to increase the resilience of our marine ecosystems, not putting them under further pressure.

I know I am but a small voice among some very powerful lobby groups but I implore you to take heed of the science, apply the precautionary principle and employ common sense. Climate change is real, it is happening and it is terrifying. That we are now witnessing the effects with our own eyes, and can still propose a reduction in the protection of our marine environments is nonsensical at best, criminal at worst.

I submit that the Australian Government should implement the marine reserve system as it was declared in 2012; not the current proposal that has been tempered by politics and self-interested stakeholder groups.

Please - and I am begging - demonstrate the courage that will see future generations thanking you and remembering you kindly in the history books.

Regards
Brooke Halkyard