

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern that the Australian Government is considering cutting the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%. The oceans around Australia are unique and Australia I believe Australia has a moral obligation to protect these for future generations as well as to lead the world in good practice. These changes will make Australia the world leader in winding back protection for the oceans.

I have heard that in the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park. Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether. Midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

This information is alarming and shows that the situation is already crucial. No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history.

For the sake of our oceans and marine life, please reverse these decisions and prevent further irresponsibility by maintaining the area of ocean Australia protects.

Regards
Denyse Bainbridge

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