

I write to record my deep concern at changes proposed to the Commonwealth Marine Park system. The sheer size of ocean areas that might be dropped from the system is startling, and, so far as I can tell, entirely contrary to the scientific recommendations upon which the system was based. Some of the most important marine environment areas will, on current proposals, be either excluded from the system altogether – as nonsensical as that is – or else be only partially covered.

While there is an important moral imperative at play here, I could almost understand some amendment to the system on strong economic grounds ... but such grounds are not evident in this case.

I ask that the government leave the Marine Park system in its current form. To do otherwise would be an enormous step backwards for Australia's environmental credentials, and, more importantly, for the welfare of our precious marine environment.

Regards,

Dr Clifford Stagoll