

I am writing to express my serious concern at the governments plan to reduce marine protection areas. Having lived in Far North Queensland, and traveled extensively all around the world, I've seen both the pristine and the far less so where countries have neglected to protect their natural resources and environment through lack of appropriate legislation.

I believe Australia is still privileged to have so much natural beauty, but with the constant pressure on the environment from climate change, industry, over population and neglect, we should be doing all we can to protect these fragile eco systems.

Not only are they imperative to our livelihood, but if neglected, will just lead Australia down the path of those other countries that have now ruined large parts of their natural beauty through neglect and indifference. The long term socioeconomic price of this far outweighs any short sighted goals that may be achieved by the governments current policy. I feel privileged to live in such an amazing and ecologically diverse country but also know that retaining this does not happen by accident.

Rest assured that these are not just my views, but represent those of the vast majority of people that I know, many of which might not take the time to send emails, but do cast a vote at election time.

Regards,
Steve Ulrich