

Dear Sir/Madam, I write to you requesting that changes made to the Marine National Parks boundaries that have reduced the park areas in the Coral Sea and for the Marion and Osprey Reefs and removed the Shark and Vema Reefs altogether - be reversed, and any further planned reductions halted.

We live in time when the world needs natural habitat maintained and protected as a reference point for all of us to monitor the effects of climate change, for understanding and enjoyment, and to support research and long term biodiversity.

Commercial interests appear to be at the heart of the moves to reduce/remove existing protections. This represents very short term thinking – commercial interests by their very nature exploit rather than support the health of these areas – they will not protect them for current and future generations of Australians.

The changes to the Marine National Parks boundaries are a very backward step and ignore and disrespect the lengthy journey required to put them in place.

Please reverse the boundary changes made and stop removing further areas from Marine National Parks as these changes mark a massive backward step in Australia's management of delicate and biodiverse natural environments.

Kind regards

Chris Durrell