

To whom it may concern

I wish to lodge my strong objection to the Federal Australian Government's plan to cut the area of ocean Australia protects **by 50%**. These changes will make Australia the world leader in winding back reserve protection for the oceans. In a time when the threats to our oceans and their fish stocks are so imperiled we need to do more not less to protect them for the future. We are guardians of these resources and it is our obligation to see that they continue into the future.

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.**

Mid water trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for long-lining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

This is not the way to protect and ensure fish stocks last - marine flora & fauna go hand in hand and there must be areas where both are protected and can breed un-encumbered.

No Government **ever** has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. **It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history.**

Sincerely

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