

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Australian Marine Sanctuaries

Shirley McRae and I are appalled that the present Australian Government is considering cutting the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%. **We need you to reconsider any changes to existing conservation legislation.**

Such changes will we believe make Australia the world leader in winding back protection for the oceans. The marine environment needs to be conserved for present and future generations. 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 long lining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary. These are all negative steps to erode what makes this continent such a special place to live in. This will negatively impact the ability of marine flora and fauna to survive into the future.

Your government will have the dubious honour of taking the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history. No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before and it is not something to be proud of. The science supporting the need for such conservation areas has been well documented, even Goggle acknowledges the benefits of marine sanctuaries and measures to maintain these areas continue to be undertaken because of the long term economic and environmental benefits. Marine sanctuaries will provide a future for Australian Fisheries who want to be able to provide ongoing employment as does the tourist industry as does medical research in its constant and extensive search for a range of therapeutic options. We recommend that you utilise the science and understand the facts before under taking such drastic and horrendous measures to destroy what our citizens depend on.

Thanks Wanda Grabowski and Shirley McRae, 52 Poole Road, Glass House Mountains, Qld, 4518