

Protection of Marine Parks

I am a vegetarian and I neither eat nor catch fish.

I grew up in England during WW2 when fleets of trawlers and drifters fished for cod and herring in the North Sea in spite of the conflict. Fish and chips was a staple of the British diet. When I migrated to Australia in 1977 the North Sea had been 'fished out' and the UK fishing industry had been reduced to a handful of boats. The North Sea had become a marine desert.

In addition to the economic and employment benefits that they offer, healthy oceans and sustainable marine environments are critical to the functioning of the planet.

The present government has failed completely to provide a policy framework and leadership to deal with climate change and global warming. It has also failed to develop a national policy with respect to renewable energy and the transition to a reliable and sustainable reduced carbon economy.

The scientific evidence is clear. Climate change is real; renewable energy can be both reliable, responsive and sustainable; and marine parks and sanctuaries provide healthy marine environments and sustain fish stocks for future generations.

Please do not let this government trash marine parks that will deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for all Australians over the long term.

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