

Dear Minister,

I am writing in regard to the Federal Governments plan to cut our national marine parks by fifty percent.

I must say I am outraged at this plan and feel the need to have my voice heard on the subject.

Why is the Federal Government so intent on destroying our environment? We are moving backwards with this Governments thinking and quite frankly I do not understand! We have one of the most beautiful countries in the world, yet the Government seems intent on destroying it.

I am not an Activist as such however I do care about the environment in which I live and am a great lover of the ocean and all that lives in it and from what I understand in the Coral Sea the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved and the same goes for Marion Reef, and Osprey Reef has also had half its area removed from the Marine National Park and I believe that Shark Reef and Vema Reef have been taken out of the Marine National Park altogether!!!

There is talk of midwater trawling to be introduced and I understand it will now be possible for longlining to start at the tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

We should be protecting our marine life AND the waters in which they live and leading the world in marine conservation not destroying it! People come from all over the world to see our beautiful coastline!!

What happened to Australians living in a democracy?? Don't WE as AUSTRALIANS get a say on this?

Please seriously re consider this move for the benefit of humanity. This is a deal breaker for me as far as who I vote for, or should I say who I WONT' be voting for next election.

Regards

Lisa Matthews