

I am writing today as a member of the youth population of Australia, to express my concern for the apparent lack of consideration our Government has for our precious oceanic ecosystems. I was greatly concerned to hear that the Government plans on cutting the area of protected ocean by 50%. Already these cuts are happening as well as the reintroduction of midwater trawling, which has catastrophic impacts on these delicate ecosystems. This is the biggest backward step in the history of conservation, with no Government removing this many hectares before. At a time where our natural world is already under incredible strain, from habitat degradation, pollution, exploitation, introduced species and disease and climate change, conservation efforts need to be strengthened tenfold, not pushed to the wayside. As a student at the University of Western Australia, studying conservation biology, I am passionate about protecting these landscapes on which we so rely, socially, culturally and economically.

I urgently ask you to reconsider these cuts, which could have devastating, irreparable consequences and safeguard the future of Australia for future generations.

Regards,

Siobhan