

To Whom It May Concern:

Five years ago, Tony Burke, MP, put protections in place for our marine sanctuaries. Now, inexplicably and contrary to the government's own review and scientific surveys, the federal government is trying to roll back this protection. This is a backward step for our marine environment and further more is not the wishes of fishermen who fish in these regions.

Marine parks that have sanctuaries provide a good balance in protecting important feeding and breeding grounds, while still supporting fishing outside these boundaries.

The area placed in the Marine National Parks in the Coral Sea has been halved. Ditto for Marion Reef with Osprey Reef having half of its area removed. As well Shark and Verna Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park altogether. This is unacceptable.

I understand that midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea and continue right up to the northern boundary.

Our federal government has an abysmal record on protecting the environment.

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

I ask the federal government to reverse these backward decisions and protect our marine environment.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Suraya Coorey

12 Farnell Road

Woy Woy NSW 2256