

Prime Minister,

I want you to understand, in the most strong terms, that I completely and absolutely reject your plan to cutting the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%.

This is an absolutely dreadful proposal, it will impinge on our future generations in the years to come as well as affecting us all right now.

No government of any persuasion, nor any nation on earth, for that matter has any right to withdraw and not protect the oceans which abuts their shores.

As our government, I expect you to lead the way and show the rest of the world that we are cognisant of the impact on the environment oceans have, and therefore you, as the leader of the current government, must continue to protect our oceans.

I understand in the 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.

It is a major concern to see **Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.**

How you can even contemplate allowing 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.

If you proceed with this plan, your legacy will be to have headed a government which has taken that many hectares out of conservation.

It will be the biggest backward step in these areas under conservation in our history.

I write this letter to support our ongoing conservation of oceans, and to make sure you very clearly understand I do not want your government to be a leader in cutting the area of the oceans we protect by 50%.

You must, for the future of our children and of the country not to proceed with this very backward plan.

With thanks and best regards,

Ron Matthews

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