

Submission from Dr Rosemary Faire, Cremorne, 2090

To whom it concerns:

As an Australian citizen who values our national ecological heritage, I am aghast to learn that the Australian Government is considering cutting the area of ocean Australia protects **by 50%!**

These changes will make Australia the world leader in winding back protection for the oceans. I strongly object to the Government's plans to cut marine protection.

I am dismayed by the following proposed changes: 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. **Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether. Truly shocking!**

Could it really be true that midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary? Surely not!!

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

Minister Tony Burke put these protections in place five years ago when he was Environment Minister and it's good to know at least the Labor politicians will never stop fighting to protect them. The people of Australia deserve better than these proposed changes and I sincerely urge you to reconsider them for the sake of future generations and our precious marine ecosystems. As Gerard Manley Hopkins wisely said, "*After comers cannot guess the beauty been.*" Please consider those who come in future.

Sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Faire