

Dear Madam/Sir,

After hearing that the government is considering cutting the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%, I am writing to you to voice strong opposition to such a plan.

The protection had been hard fought for until Labor government introduced these protections 5 years ago.

Under the consideration, 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.

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.

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

The conservation of marine parks has multiple purposes but the most important is - to allow marine life, which is already under stress due to climate change, to regenerate. Health of our oceans depends on it.

I urge you to do the opposite - not cut but increase the areas of protection.

Regards,

Vesna Borak

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