

I am most disturbed by the moves to cut protected marine areas. 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. 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.

No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history, at a time when marine environments are under more pressure than ever. I urge you to reverse this retrograde move and take steps to protect our marine sanctuaries and oceans.

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