

The LNP Federal Government must take its conservation responsibility to the Australian public seriously, and protect the Australian Marine National Parks as they exist currently and AS THE MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIANS WANT. **The Australian Government must not be allowed to cut the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%.**

The current Australian Marine National Parks exist, so that Australia's fisheries and marine species will survive into the years ahead for future generations and to sustain a complex integrated biological system. Continued conservation of these parks is especially important now since marine biological systems are under increasing pressure from global warming due to climate change, global overfishing of fish stocks and run off from agricultural businesses.

The Coral Sea alone will be reduced by half if the LNP Federal Government gets its way. The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world, will have half its area removed from the Marine National Park. Shark and Vema Reefs will be taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.

If midwater trawling is reintroduced it will 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. I reiterate, the Australian Government is must not be allowed to cut the area of ocean Australia protects by 50%.

Sincerely

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