



22 Mar 2018

Courier Mail, Brisbane

Author: Josh Frydenberg • Section: General News • Article Type: News Item
Audience : 135,007 • Page: 41 • Printed size: 228.00cm² • Market: QLD
Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 4,004 • words: 492 • Item ID: 929177043

isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 1 of 1

Coalition's management plans will ensure marine park survival



AUSTRALIA has the second-largest marine protected area in the world, just behind the US. Some 3.3 million sq km in size, it is a wondrous marine habitat that is at the heart of our biodiversity and healthy ecosystem.

Now, after more than three years of consultation, an independent scientific review, public forums around the country and 130,000 written submissions, the Turnbull Government has tabled in Parliament management plans for 44 marine parks. From the Coral Sea in the east, to Ningaloo Reef in the west and the Great Australian Bight in the south, these world-class management plans reflect a balanced, scientific, evidence-based approach.

Under these plans, 36 per cent of Australian waters are included in marine parks, which is well ahead of the Convention on Biological Diversity's "Aichi target" of 10 per cent by 2020 and a recent World Conservation Congress resolution, calling for 30 per cent by 2030.

When the Gillard Government released draft management plans in 2012, they locked out five million Australian recreational fishers from a vast area of Commonwealth waters

without proper consultation.

These new plans give greater recognition to the rights of Australian anglers. It gives them access to 97 per cent of Commonwealth waters within 100km of the coast and 80 per cent of the marine park network overall up from 64 per cent under Labor.

Carefully managed recreational fishing, which provides access to reefs in the Coral Sea is not mutually exclusive from ecologically sustainable outcomes and biodiversity conservation.

When it comes to commercial fishing, we also recognise the significant role this billion-dollar industry plays. Again compared to Labor, 17 per cent more of the total area of marine parks will now be open to commercial fishing.

While Labor is running a scare campaign around supertrawlers, it is worth noting that it was on Labor's watch that the supertrawler came to Australia and that it took a Coalition Government to ban.

And under our management plans, an additional 200,000 sq km of sea floor habitat, will be protected.

The Coalition is also reducing the area open to mining. This includes a complete exclusion from mining for the Coral Sea, which would've been open to resource development under Labor's 2012 plans.

The Coalition's management plans

will also better showcase our country's eco-tourism potential. Well-known sites near Coringa-Herald in the Coral Sea are protected, along

with Osprey Reef, which for the first time will be a green no-take zone.

If the Coalition's marine park management plans are disallowed in the Senate as Labor is threatening to do, the status quo will continue which means an absence of management plans and protections.

The finalisation of the marine management plans is the culmination of a long process which has sought to balance at times competing interests.

The result is a fairer and more effective system that will deliver stronger environmental and economic outcomes for all Australians.

Josh Frydenberg is the Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy