



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
MEMBER FOR FARRER**

MC22-002484  
27 April 2022

Ms Veronica Papacosta  
Chief Executive Officer  
Seafood Industry Australia Ltd

[ceo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au](mailto:ceo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au)

Dear Ms Papacosta

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 April 2022, co-signed by your colleagues, concerning Australia's marine park network.

I warmly welcome your affirmation of support for the current Australian Marine Parks management arrangements and your constructive engagement in the extensive consultations that created these plans.

As mentioned in the Prime Minister's media release on 23 April 2022, the Coalition Government is committed to maintaining our robust Australian Marine Park network in its current form. We are proud of the balanced approach we have achieved towards ocean management that supports Australian industries and protects our precious marine environment for all Australians.

Our Australian Marine Park management plans have adopted carefully targeted zoning, based on the best available science and extensive consultation, which achieve world-leading environmental protections while significantly reducing impacts on users, including fishers.

Labor has refused to rule out their 2019 commitment to restore the original 2012 Marine Park Network in full ahead of the upcoming election. These plans were an attack on our fishers and would have been disastrous for the Australian fishing industry.

Compared to Labor's 2012 management plans, our 2018 plans halved the economic impact on commercial fishers from \$8.2 million to \$4.1 million a year, and significantly increased the area of marine parks accessible to recreational fishers. Labor can't be trusted to not lock up our oceans and risk the livelihoods of our fishers.

I can assure you that the government is committed to effectively implementing the balanced approach set out in the existing Australian Marine Park management plans and has no intention to alter these plans outside the regular statutory review processes mandated by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

As you would be aware, management plans must be reviewed every 10 years. The plans incorporate the concept of adaptive management. That means we are investing in building an evidence base about the effectiveness of marine parks through research and monitoring. At the 10-year review points of each plan, we will consider and, as necessary, adjust elements of the plans in response to scientific evidence and the feedback of stakeholders provided through statutory consultations.

Australia's commercial and recreational fishers have always been a critical stakeholder in these consultations, and your input will continue to be given careful consideration in future management planning processes.

I look forward to continuing to work with your organisations to build the future health and sustainability of our marine ecosystems while supporting the future of Australian commercial and recreational seafood industries and recreational boat users.

Only a re-elected Coalition Government will back Australian fishers to invest, grow their business and employ Australians.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



SUSSAN LEY

Cc: Michael Starkey, President, Australian Fishing Trade Association  
Russel Conway, Chair, Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation  
Neil Patchett, Co-GM, Boating Industry Association  
The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister  
The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure,  
Transport and Regional Development  
The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia  
Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries