



Campaign Media Release

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION, HERITAGE & THE ARTS
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

**THE MARINE PARK PLANNING PROCESS UNDER THE GILLARD
GOVERNMENT**

Minister for Environment Protection Peter Garrett and Minister for Agriculture Tony Burke today said the Coalition was waging a dishonest fear campaign on the future of commercial and recreational fishing.

The Coalition are deliberately misleading fishers and their families and causing unnecessary concern.

The Gillard Government is continuing to work through the same process on Marine Protected Areas which was begun under former Prime Minister John Howard.

This process is based on science, detailed planning and community consultation.

And, as it always has been, the process will involve close consultation with fishing communities, coastal communities, recreational and commercial fishers, marine and tourism businesses and environmental groups, to reach the right balance and ensure our marine regions remain sustainable into the future.

This feedback will be carefully examined when determining the possible location and size of any marine parks.

No decisions have been made on the location of any new marine parks and we will consult further with the community before any decisions are made.

Federal Labor does not support the Greens' calls for arbitrary targets which do not reflect the science.

Importantly, marine parks have no impact on beach fishing and minimal impact on recreational fishing – because they only affect Commonwealth waters which generally begin more than five kilometres out to sea.

Tony Abbott has not offered any alternative plan for industry.

He has only offered to suspend the consultation already underway – which would leave the industry in limbo and leave fishers with more uncertainty.

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