

Government breaches commitments to protect and conserve Tasmania's oceans?

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Key Points

- State and Commonwealth Ministers recently committed to conserving 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030.
- Despite this, the State Government's has recently restated it is instead committed to a "moratorium" on the creation of new marine parks.
- Tasmanians for Marine Parks are disappointed by the State Government's lack of transparency and its apparent determination not to move towards a contemporary stance on protecting our marine life.

Details

In a joint communique issued by Commonwealth, State and Territory Environment Ministers on 21 October 2022, it was agreed that, *"In recognition of the scale and urgency of environmental challenges, ministers agreed...To work collectively to achieve a national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass and 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030."*

Following the joint communique, the Commonwealth proposed a new marine park at Macquarie Island.

"The State Governments contribution to this collective endeavour is just the opposite, by renewing their commitment to a "moratorium" on the creation of new marine parks for Tasmanians", said Michael Jacques, coordinator of the marine park campaigning group "Tasmanians for Marine Parks".

"How can taking no action in Tasmanian coastal waters, ever amount to *recognition of the scale and urgency of environmental challenges*" faced in Tasmania.

"What Tasmanians want is a move away from the acrimony of past environmental debates and to have an open discussion about what working collectively, and commitment really means".

"Without adequately protecting Tasmanian inshore waters the Minister's promise is a meaningless effort to distract Tasmanians from a more positive solution", Mr Jacques said.

Tasmanians for Marine Parks is pointing the way forward by proposing coastal areas of significant environmental value as possible marine parks. To get the conversation started it is planning statewide consultation

sessions. "We will help as much as we can to get a respectful conversation going that balances the needs of all stakeholders in Tasmania. We have asked the Minister if he would like to meet with us about this and are waiting on a reply".

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Copy of the joint communique can be found at

<https://www.dccew.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/communiqués#environment-ministers-meeting>