



## Save our marine life with a message to your MP

Recently almost 40,000 people emailed the Federal Government calling for marine sanctuaries to save Australia's South West marine life, putting us on the brink of creating one of the best marine sanctuary networks in the world. However the fishing industry is now fighting back, trying to convince our Members of Parliament to ignore the community chorus for marine protection.

Our marine life now needs just 5 minutes of your time to leave a message for your MP. Leaving your phone message will be a powerful way to remind your local MP of the strong community support for marine sanctuaries at this important time.

### Leaving a phone message for your MP is easy

When you call the office of your MP, they probably won't be there, but that's ok. One of their staff will take your message and will make sure it gets through. Even if you get an answering machine after hours, every key point from the call is recorded and filed.

### What should I say?

Leaving a message for your MP is just like leaving a message for anyone else. Their staff will ask for your name and why you're calling, and they might also ask for a way to keep in touch with you. Remember to remain polite and positive throughout your conversation.

### Here are some guidelines for what you might like to tell your MP

- 1) It's important to keep your message clear and simple. The main point they need to hear is how you support marine protection. "I'm [name] and I'd like to let [MP's name] know that I'm very supportive of protecting our oceans in marine sanctuaries."
- 2) Briefly mention why you care about marine conservation— e.g. 'I volunteer my spare time to helping marine causes', 'I'm a regular diver' or 'I love Australia's beaches and oceans'.
- 3) Provide a positive statement about the government taking action on marine conservation e.g. 'I'm glad the government is putting marine sanctuaries in place'.
- 4) State what a good outcome would mean e.g. 'If the government gets this right, it would be an amazing, iconic conservation win for Australia.'
- 5) Let them know that the Government is not quite there yet; they need go further to make us world leaders in marine conservation.
- 6) Ask that [MP's name] pass on your views to the Federal Environment Minister.
- 7) Thank them and leave a return telephone number. You may also wish to follow up with an email of your key points, asking your MP what the Environment Minister's response was.

## Ready to call?

Find out who to call at our web site [www.saveourmarinelife.org.au](http://www.saveourmarinelife.org.au)

## Not satisfied with just a phone call?

Meeting with your MP is probably the **most powerful thing** you can do to show them your support for marine protection. Meeting with your MP gives them a chance to put a human face on the issue and provides them with a better perception of where their constituents stand.

All you need to do is ask for a meeting when you call your MP. Then in your meeting, just expand on some of the points outlined above, letting them know why marine protection is important to you. Make sure you ask them questions, e.g. 'what actions are you taking on this issue?' and remember to ask them to pass on your concerns to the Federal Environment Minister.

**Good luck and remember to let us know how you go at [info@saveourmarinelife.org.au](mailto:info@saveourmarinelife.org.au)!**