



Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

**Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland**

REF: MNMC2012-06113

The Hon. John Murphy MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 23 August 2012 about petition no 697/1128 submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions from concerned Australian residents about the current process of establishing marine park boundaries in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Australian Government is committed to the development of marine reserves through the marine bioregional planning process to support the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's oceans. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is the lead agency on marine bioregional planning.

As the matter largely falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, I am forwarding the petition to him for consideration. I have enclosed my letter to Minister Burke for your information.

Thank you again for bringing the petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland

20 September 2012
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