

Dear sirs, for many years I have dreamed of travelling to The Great Barrier Reef to see its wonders first hand instead of just through pictures. I have been devastated to learn of the warming climate bleaching (killing) corals in certain areas, and now of the Queensland Government's plans to mine for coal and gas under the reef. This plan for deliberate despoilation of an area of rare beauty (and a tourist magnet) is unbelievable. It is as though they think that the reef will soon be dead anyhow, and just want to get in for a "quick buck" for the dirty fuel industry before it is outlawed or superseded by clean energy. I have finally got an opportunity to go and see the reef before it disappears. It will be sad for me to know that future generations will never see its glory.

A whole new way of thinking about our environment is needed. Nobody seems prepared to lead any more. Governments have to be pushed to do anything about the future.

Please do all in your power to protect the environment, the climate, the world we live in at present, because the future looks too grim for anyone contemplating having children.

Dawn Nettheim