



21 June 2021

Hon. Eva Lawler
Minister for Environment
Parliament House
Darwin 0800
environment.policy@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister for the Environment,

Submission on the draft declaration to prohibit subsea mining

Keep Top End Coasts Healthy (KTECH) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft declaration to prohibit subsea mining.

KTECH is an alliance of environment groups that includes the Australian Marine Conservation Society, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory. We work with the community, Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and government to safeguard the health of Top End coasts to secure our treasured way of life, culture and fishing lifestyle.

We commend the Gunner Government for listening to the evidence, and the people of the Northern Territory, and acting to ban seabed mining in the NT.

Healthy coasts and rivers are central to our Top End way of life, our economic success and our culture. They underpin one of the most important economic and cultural pursuits – the Top End fishing experience. They contribute \$2billion to the Territory economy each year, supporting more than 6,000 jobs, and are a powerful drawcard for tourists from around the world. There is clear evidence that the impacts of seabed mining would cause unacceptable environmental, cultural, social and economic costs.

We strongly support the draft declaration to ban seabed mining (draft declaration to prohibit subsea mining). The draft declaration appears to be a permanent ban and declares that exploration and mining are prohibited actions within coastal areas. By banning seabed mining, the Gunner Government has demonstrated its commitment to protect our coasts and safeguard our fishing, lifestyle and regional economies.

The ban on seabed mining addresses this real and present to Top End coasts. We look forward to continuing to work with the Gunner Government to manage and protect our Top End coasts through

Keep Top End Coasts Healthy is an alliance of environment groups including the Australian Marine Conservation Society, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory



implementation of the NT Coastal and Marine Management Strategy, the next important step in the Gunner Government's long standing commitment to safeguard our Top End coast and lifestyle.

We again thank you for the dedicated work of you and your department which has got us to this great moment for the Territory. A ban on seabed mining will assist to protect our marine environment, fishing lifestyle and support regional economies.

Yours sincerely



Adele Pedder

Campaign Manager
Keep Top End Coasts Healthy
Ph: 0422 108 539
E: adelepedder@topendcoasts.org.au
W: topendcoasts.org.au
FB: facebook.com/topendsealife