

## POLICY STATEMENT ON THE KERMADEC WORLD SANCTUARY AREA

The Kermadec Islands are a part of New Zealand 1000 km to the northeast, and straddle tropical and temperate climates.

The Kermadec marine region is one of the most diverse and stunning in the world. It contains underwater volcanoes and the second-deepest ocean trench on the planet (over 10 km deep in places).

It has remarkable marine biodiversity, including giant squid, the deep diving sperm whale, and millions of seabirds.

There is already a marine reserve around the Kermadec Islands, with complementary world heritage status proposed for the Islands themselves. The marine reserve protects some of the marine habitats of the area (out to the territorial sea boundary).

But a much higher level of protection in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the Kermadecs is justified.

The Kermadecs provides the opportunity for a marine reserve of ecosystem scale, which would be one of the few on the planet.

New Zealand could become a world leader in creating such an EEZ marine reserve.

While this is not yet possible under our marine reserve legislation, we could do it by a special Act of Parliament (as Labour did in 2005 to create eight marine reserves in Fiordland).

**Labour will create a world sanctuary area in the exclusive economic zone around the Kermadec Islands by way of giving this area marine reserve status.**