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Disaster Bay - an objection to the proposed kelp farm by Anne-Patricia Hemingway.

On the far south of the state of NSW is the remote and beautifully balanced coastal wilderness known as Disaster Bay. The whole length of the coastline, from below Eden to the Victorian border - because of its remoteness and inaccessibility, is pristine, unexploited and natural. It is a rare and perfect Australian undisturbed wilderness which, in this case remarkably, still exists within the perfect order of the earth.

Disaster Bay is a play-ground for dolphins and seals - a safe resting-place and observation location for whales - an immaculate haven for a whole myriad of sea-creatures - swimming safely and freely amongst the naturally-growing sea grasses and kelp.

Pure shining white sands stretch the whole length of the bay - never any sign of pollution along the beach, which is backed by 200m high densely vegetated slopes, and is directly adjacent to the Nadgee-Howe Wilderness Area — a crucial uninterrupted expanse of nature extending all the way to the Victorian border.

In this magical world, all is maintaining its balance. It is a stronghold for all wildlife - a dramatic landscape offering natural biodiversity as protection for all creatures, including endangered and vulnerable species, both on land and in the sea.

Enter the Human Being! Who gasps at the purity and beauty of this magical place, acquires a small bit of it on a near-by lake, and then asks: *How can I exploit this perfection to make money for MYSELF?*

How can I inflict my human disorder upon this beautiful haven of nature's perfection?

Does the Human Being understand that the immaculate balance of the universe is **immeasurable** - that any interference from humanity can only further pollute? *Just take most of the rest of the*

planet, where humans endeavour to control and dominate, as the actual reality of the example of this fact.

An Example: Just hundreds of miles along this very same coastline - to the west of Disaster Bay but in South Australia - there is an "unprecedented toxic algal bloom and natural disaster" which has continued for more than a year, and now shows signs of increasing again over the coming winter months. Reportedly no-one can understand it, but we continue to 'investigate'. And to deny and ignore.

This toxic bloom has decimated the coastline, killing all the sea creatures by poisoning their natural environment. (And ruining the human beings' summer holiday fun!) In Feb 2026 the toxic algal bloom had reportedly spread even further to the west - around Port Lincoln.

Can any amount of 'Human Measurement' return this particular polluted area of the coast back to its natural perfection? Or can one only hope that nature itself will somehow 'magically' find its own balance again - if given the chance - without further interference from humanity?

Australia has just ratified the Global Ocean Treaty. Does this mean that the country is now fully committed to totally protecting its coastline and surrounding oceans? One can only hope.

In October 2022, toxic algal blooms were detected in the vicinity of Disaster Bay/Two-fold Bay, which demonstrates clearly how fragile the whole coastal environment is to change, including Disaster Bay. To claim that a huge artificially-inflicted industrial-sized and fenced-off kelp farm will aid in the natural balance of the Disaster Bay goes against everything that the natural world IS.

"If we want to help the ocean heal, we have to leave it alone." *Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson.*

"The ocean can bounce back to life. If left alone, it may not just recover but thrive beyond anything anyone alive has ever seen". *David Attenborough, 2025*

In Disaster Bay there is a delicate balance right now. So why the desperate human need to bring pollution, disastrous micro-plastics, domination, interference, disorder and damage to nature's perfection - simply so that the Human Being can presumably make a lot of money - (money, after all, being the main or only limited stick by which the Human Being measures the world.)

Exactly what is this human impulse to destroy the perfection of the balance of nature at every opportunity? Is it greed? Is it power? There is much to be learned from the First Nations People and their relationship to 'country'. Over aeons they have learned to live in harmony and perception with the land and sea - listening to it - caring for it as they would the mother who protects them.

The results of mankind's ongoing exploits haunt us continually every day. We can damage so mindlessly - but we have no means of recovery, as is demonstrated by the toxic algal bloom in South Australia, and by so many other disorders of our own making. Yet humanity still finds more and more ways to continue the path of wreaking havoc upon everything encountered at every opportunity, even as suffering constantly the consequences of the damage already inflicted.

The claim that this particular destruction (of Disaster Bay) will somehow ameliorate earlier great environmental damage elsewhere is quite simply delusional and deceitful. **The Disaster Bay kelp project is nothing more than a continuation of such human destruction.** Scientific research shows clearly that carbon sequestration only takes place on the '*slow carbon cycle*' - when the natural kelp is deposited and rots in the deep ocean where it will not interact with the atmosphere for centuries to millennia. On the other hand, the *fast carbon cycle* - fast-growing kelp and seaweed for immediate farming and consumption - will do little or nothing to alleviate the climate crisis. When such plants die, or are immediately consumed, that carbon is released back into the atmosphere. Therefore the *fast carbon process* does not remove carbon from the atmosphere long term.

The weather is another serious factor to be considered. It is extreme and massively strong in 'treacherous' Disaster Bay, and in the future, as we are already observing due to climate change, it will grow stronger and even more treacherous. What measures will

need to be taken by the entrepreneur to protect such a huge investment in the event of increasingly uncontrollable weather? What havoc will be wreaked upon the natural environment by the structures that have to be put in place for a kelp farm? What will the increase of debris and pollution created by an industrial-size kelp farm do, for example, to the entrance to Wonboyn Lake, which already closes over for long periods when the bay is under stress? What about the Merrica River entrance?

The strengthening East Australian Current (EAC) significantly impacts Disaster Bay by introducing warm nutrient-poor water into the bay, reducing the nutrient levels required for giant kelp growth. It also boosts the population of predatory range-extending urchins. These Long-spined Sea Urchins create 'urchin barrens', where they graze away kelp forests.

So an entrepreneur invests millions of dollars into an industrial-sized kelp farm with the expectation of massive returns on the investment. What is the reaction going to be to invasion by the Long-spined Sea Urchin and the threat of destruction of the massive mono-crop? **Poison the sea urchins and thus the bay itself?**

What is more important in such an instance? **Protection of the naturally maintained perfect health of the bay? Or protection of the entrepreneur's multi-million-dollar investment?** (*Which obviously should never have been permitted to intrude upon the delicate balance of Disaster Bay in the first place.*)

Does there ever come a point where we finally understand that the damage already done by us human beings is forever irreparable by us? That the time has come to simply STOP! To never again consider any option to render yet further damage? To allow the planet time and space to recover its own immeasurable balance, if that is at all possible.

Surely it is now the time for us human beings to step back, and learn to understand the depth and complexity of this amazing natural world we are so privileged to inhabit and share with our fellow sentient beings. To at last discover what our place as human beings on the earth actually IS? Which is not to exploit it - or

attempt to measure it - or endeavour to control it. But to revere and respect the beauty and perfection of balance - to protect it above all else - to understand that this delicate natural equilibrium is quite simply immeasurable, and can never be controlled and exploited by us human beings in any way ever again.

Are we at all capable, before it is totally too late, of learning from all the years of our terrible mistakes that have resulted in unbelievable destruction and imbalance, and finally understand that such behaviour simply cannot continue.

The kelp project in Disaster Bay is just another such human disaster. Inappropriate. Insensitive. Polluting. Intrusive. Out of place. Disastrous. Conceived out of total unawareness for the natural environment - and lack of acknowledgment of the invaluable and precious presence of one small place on this planet where the earth and sea exist in almost complete harmony.

Please - can we begin to protect all miraculously remaining pristine areas, which until now, simply because of remoteness, have managed to maintain the immeasurable perfect balance of the earth? Can we treasure these surviving places as rare and priceless - and never allow anything or anyone to harm them in any way again?

Let Disaster Bay be the turning point in our growing awareness, perception, listening, responsibility and devotion to the amazing planet Earth.

It is now or never. Isn't it?