

2 July 2026

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)

Re: Project: Eden-1 Kelp Aquaculture Farm

NSW Case ID: SSD-41680467

Category: Support for Project

Organisation: Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre (MBCRC)

Location: Adelaide, South Australia

Reportable Political Donations: None

The Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre recognises the significant contribution Auskelp has made over the past five years in pioneering hatchery techniques and the cultivation of the native Australian kelp, *Ecklonia radiata*, in high-energy offshore environments in southern New South Wales. We regard the Eden-1 project as one of the most important offshore aquaculture initiatives currently proposed in Australia.

At a time when our oceans are experiencing unprecedented warming, with ecological consequences that are not yet fully understood, the research, development and open-ocean testing undertaken by Auskelp — and documented within the EIS — are valuable to the scientific understanding of kelp cultivation and wild kelp health in Australia.

We are pleased to support Auskelp in its work to build a sustainable, environmentally responsible seaweed industry that can deliver high-value marine products while contributing to the longer-term understanding, protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. This is one circumstance where commercial development and ecological benefit are jointly aligned.

The MBCRC is supporting Auskelp as it progresses through the regulatory approval process and continues to expand its offshore research and ocean-testing programs. We see a substantial opportunity to develop Australian kelp as a sustainable source of biomass for food, extracts, feed and biostimulants — products capable of reducing reliance on synthetic fertilisers and supporting the establishment of new sovereign marine industries in Australia.

Given the standing of the MBCRC as a federally funded Cooperative Research Centre with a direct role in supporting marine bioproduct research and development, we

respectfully submit that the views expressed above are relevant to the Department's assessment and would assist in understanding the broader scientific, environmental and industry context of the proposed development.

Yours sincerely



John Gunn FTSE

Chair : Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre
Chair : Integrated Marine Observing System Governing Board