

Objection to Aus Kelp's Proposed Eden 1 project

My name is Stanys, I am 25 year old scientist and have been visiting Nadgee, Wonboyn, Bittangabee and Beowa National Park area since I was born. In this relatively short time, I have already seen drastic man-made changes to the landscape by way of logging and various construction developments. I have also witnessed first-hand the effects of bushfires and floods, their damage is exacerbated by man-made activities, primarily logging, and directly impacts the landscape's ability to recover, geologically and ecologically. As a result of my experiences over the years, the proposed 200 hectare kelp farm in the pristine waters of Disaster Bay concerns me. The proposed industrialisation of Disaster Bay is concerning because of its proposed size, location, environmental impact, the misleading nature of Aus Kelp's claims and precedent that it sets for the NSW coastline.

The proposed farm is very large, and in my mind it seems inevitable to have an environmental impact at any size. Aus Kelp describes the benthic habitat of Disaster Bay as a "Marine Desert" which is quite misleading because it paints Disaster Bay as a lifeless environment however, a Marine Desert isn't a barren landscape with no life, it's just another biome in the ocean, and in my experience it is teeming with life. From just what I've seen Disaster Bay is home to: dolphins, whales, sharks, seals, pelagic fish (pilchards, Australian salmon, bream, trevallies, tuna, king fish, just to name a few), sea birds (sea eagles, turns, sooty oyster catchers, pelicans, gulls, other sea faring birds, and most dive and fish in the proposed kelp farm area). That list is just animals impacted in the direct area where the kelp farm could potentially be, other animals will be impacted by the boats travelling up and down the coast if the farm needs to be serviced or harvesting needs to be done.

The construction of the Aus Kelp farm will be intrusive and no doubt negatively impact the area, with drilling into the sea floor plus exhaust fumes from the boats taking workers to the proposed area. If the kelp farm gets approved, the kelp farm will negatively impact the area in various ways. The kelp farm is a monoculture of kelp which is a highly unnatural and is unsupportive of diversity. It will not be beneficial to fish species or improve fishing as Aus Kelp suggests, that's because this is not how an ecosystem works. The very thing that makes an ecosystem thrive is the complex web of organisms that create it. Monocultures are not complex because they are made up of one organism, thus Eden 1 will not support marine diversity. It may be beneficial in other ways, however my review of the the literature suggests there are gaps in the knowledge of this new industry, which is also concerning because the risk of unpredictable impacts of a kelp farm of this unprecedented size and location are relatively unknown. Most kelp farms now days are inland with tanks and have no impact on the natural ocean environment. The proposed kelp farm has numerous environmental impacts some known and some unknown, building one in a pristine environment seems very risky and could be detrimental for Disaster Bay in the short and long term.

With these various environmental factors and one sidedness of information from Aus Kelp, it's hard to agree with the proposed kelp farm in Disaster Bay. If the farm gets

approved, it also sets a precedent for other farms to get approval, possibly more in Disaster Bay or possibly further down the coastline towards Victoria in even more pristine waters. This also concerns me because they won't only be tainting the pristine environment in the ocean but also in the national park that it is adjacent to. There are so many related factors, but the bottom line is that there is no way this industrialisation is good for the environment - in fact it's extremely risky and possibly dangerous. The information received from Aus Kelp about this project is unscientific and misleading, if you only hear one side to the story you cannot trust the story, which is the case for Aus Kelp.