

There's so many things I could say, where do I start!?

This kelp farm is too close to home. I'm the 5th generation of nature lovers in my family tree to have the privilege of holidaying at such a pristine, natural location. To see such natural sites over Disaster Bay taken by buoys, boats and flashing lights in the previously dark horizons looking out from Greenglade Beach, The Merrica River and surrounding shores would absolutely destroy me, destroy the energies of the area and destroy the nostalgic memories and views of my whole life.

Disaster bay is located at one end of the Nadgee Nature Reserve; over 50,000 acres of protected coastal wilderness, the last of its kind in NSW. This area is protected from vehicles and only accessible by foot, where hikers walk through the wilderness, soaking in its natural and untouched beauty. How does putting a 200 hectare commercial kelp farm at the North end of the Nadgee sound like a good idea? Is it because it's convenient for the CEO/founder of this farm, whose place of residence is on the shores of Wonboyn Lake! The kelp farm's visibility from the shores of Disaster Bay has been considered and placed 'out of sight' from the Wonboyn lake entrance, however has been put in view of locations such as Greenglade beach and The Merrica River outlet, both of which are parts of the Nadgee Nature Reserve, who pride themselves on not only the protection and beauty of the wilderness area itself, but also the "pristine coastal landscape," which includes the marine ecosystems the wilderness overlooks. Having a kelp farm visible from the North end of the Nadgee would ruin the untouched, scenic nature of the park.

The water in disaster bay is considered high quality because of its nature-surrounded location. It has a naturally barren ocean floor. In his community information session, Chris hints at the idea that this isn't natural and that kelp is needed to purify the water in Disaster Bay and mitigate the rising temperatures of the waters. Why is a kelp farm needed in a location that is already self-sustaining?

We all know, love and listen to David Attenborough. In his recent film, 'Oceans', his expertise and research lead him to say "the ocean can bounce back to life" "if left alone, it may not just recover but thrive beyond anything anyone alive has ever seen." A kelp farm might be needed, a kelp farm may be beneficial for the oceans, but is a COMMERCIAL kelp farm needed in disaster bay? Is a commercial kelp farm needed to purify the already pure waters, to help the already pristine environment? A kelp farm like this would be much better suited at other locations that's shores are already well established and that isn't such a thriving, natural location, if it is needed at all.

Sure, climate change may be creeping in, maybe his research found that Disaster Bay needed 'saving', but a kelp farm that is being harvested may not have the effect it is hoped to have.

Chris claims he wants what is best for Wonboyn, such as a commercial kelp farm, however he talks of ways he can sell the kelp he grows, and says that it is likely the only place kelp will be able to grow in NSW, as it needs cold waters to truly thrive. If kelp grows best in cool waters, leave it to the coast between Vic and Broome to grow kelp and 'save' Australia.

Much of the justification for the farm was using evidence of algae blooms in South Australia; how is this proof we need one in Disaster Bay? And even though it is small, "it is a good start" to mitigating the effect of climate change in Australia.

Another concern I have for the kelp farm is the potential for its growth, as well as it being sold. The kelp farming industry is drastically growing in Australia, estimated to grow in worth by around 150 times by 2040, from \$10 million to \$1.5 billion made annually, and with that is the potential for this one in Disaster bay to be sold for decent amounts of money, or be expanded. Sold or not, this farm could be expanded, heightening the noise pollution, light pollution, water pollution of plastic, metal or kelp debris, and potential for local species such as the dolphins and migratory whales to get caught up in the farms.

There must be other locations that are so perfectly suited for kelp farms that aren't at the head of the last protected coastal wilderness area in NSW. Such a pristine location should not be jeopardised for commercial use, nor should it be subject to possible biological, chemical and physical pollutants that are almost certainly produced by any kelp farm. The scale of the effect of the farm on the local environment can not be assumed nor properly evaluated by a small test farm (Eden1).

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to object and share my thoughts and worries regarding the proposed kelp farm in Disaster bay, and hopefully ensure the farm can be properly researched, thought out and evaluated if it goes ahead.