

60-hectare Qld seaweed farm proposed to help oceans and create 50 jobs

Fifty jobs could be created if plans for a giant seaweed farm, just north of Brisbane, come to fruition.

Alan Quinney, Bribie Weekly
August 19, 2019 11:07am

A BRIBIE resident has plans to make the island a centre for seaweed farming.

Jo Kelly is the founder of the Australian Seaweed Institute which hopes to establish a seaweed ocean farm on a 60ha site about 750m offshore from Godwin Beach.

It is expected that 50 jobs could be created if the farm gets the go-ahead.

Ms Kelly said as well as being highly-nutritious food for humans and animals, seaweed could also be used in clothing, footwear, cosmetics, bioplastics and organic fertilisers.

“Growing seaweed in the ocean is very similar to oyster farming and it does not damage or degrade the environment,” she said.

“There is no freshwater required, no feed or fertiliser is added and there is no waste stream.

“Better still, seaweed ocean farms regenerate oceans by taking up the carbon dioxide and pollutants from the water and seaweed provides habitat for marine life to flourish.

“Seaweed farms in oceans act like rainforests on land, they breathe out oxygen and give life,” Ms Kelly said.

She said seaweed farming was a very sustainable form of aquaculture and one that people would see more of in Australia during coming years.

“If you walk along the beaches around Bribie Island you will find the washed up remains of native seaweeds that grow in Moreton Bay.

<https://www.australianseaweedinstitute.com.au/>



A concept image of what the proposed seaweed farm might look like from under water.

“There is an abundance of native seaweed species in Moreton Bay that are highly nutritious, can help to protect our oceans for the future and generate new jobs.”

The proposal for the 1500m long and 405m wide site is for floating long lines that are anchored to the seabed by posts with the seaweed grown on ropes or in baskets/bags.

It would have a maximum of 280 lines, 200m long supported by 903 posts and more than 30,000 baskets and floats.

It is proposed there would be no public access to the 60ha site in the interests of public safety.

The proposal has signed marker posts on each corner that are offset 20m from the farm infrastructure.

Residents are able to lodge written comments with the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services by Sunday September 8.

Email to GBRRTechSupport@des.qld.gov.au.

For more visit australianseaweedinstitute.com.au.

Meanwhile University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) scientists at the Bribie Island Research Centre are looking at ways to produce large amounts of a seaweed, *Asparagopsis*, that helps prevent cattle from emitting methane.