



Aerial photo of Kelp Industries factory site, with a view of some of the coastline from which kelp is collected.

The story of Kelp Industries is one of unique success based on the utilisation of a fully renewable resource and the knowledge, creativity and initiative of King Islanders.

King Island is located in Bass Strait midway between Melbourne and the North West coast of mainland Tasmania. The island is surrounded by reefs which support the growth of Durvillaea Potatorum, known locally as Bull Kelp Seaweed

Kelp Industries Pty Ltd was established in 1975 to supply seaweed meal to the biopolymer industry for the extraction of alginate*, and has grown into a substantial and successful business contributing significantly to the Island's economy.

The biopolymer industry continues to provide the main outlet, however, animal feed, soil conditioning and other applications are becoming increasingly important.

"Sustainable development" is a perfect description of the way the business has grown and continues to expand. The Bull Kelp is collected from the shoreline after it has been naturally dislodged from the rocks on which it grows by strong tidal action and washed ashore.

The Bull Kelp collected is "cast" seaweed; a suitable analogy is picking up Nature's fallen leaves (and only a small percentage of those available).



Kelp is delivered to the factory by truck or trailer, where the fresh weed is hung by hand onto low purpose-built unloading racks.

The weed is lifted onto high racks to dry naturally in the sun and wind before being moved inside for completion of the drying process.



The dry kelp is fed through a hammer mill to reduce it to the required granular form and size.



The final product is packaged into reusable one tonne bulk bags. The product may be transferred into 20kg sacks or bulk loaded into scalable shipping containers.

