

Dr Mabin said the research suggests that understanding the likely future impact of climate change on giant kelp will require consideration of a range of factors, as well as further research into their effect on different life stages of kelp species.

“This research shows that the impact of ocean warming may be substantially altered when there is simultaneous change in other environmental factors, demonstrating the importance of an approach that considers multiple factors.

“At the very least, climate caused changes in temperature, increased light caused by canopy destabilisation, and disruption of nutrient regimes can be expected to lead to further declines in the distribution of giant kelp,” Dr Mabin said.

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