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Channel Ten News
Talk Radio 4BC
Courier Mail
Bayside Bulletin
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Gold Coast City Councillors:

In Support of Artificial Reefs

Pressure on our natural marine environment is at its highest in human history and will only increase in years to come.

It is my opinion as a recreational boating and fishing professional that the Gold Coast shallow offshore reefs are at risk of being labelled a marine desert without some form of man made intervention.

The only solution is to add an artificial environment that will assist in promoting marine habitats and growth, a proven concept used by many countries throughout the world and also in Australia.

The HMAS Brisbane was sunk to create an artificial reef on the Sunshine Coast in 2006 and has been visited by tens of thousands of tourist and featured in tourism magazines around the world.

The estimated revenue to their local economy is already in the millions.

Contrary to some opinions, modern artificial reefs are not made of car bodies, old machinery or any other potentially polluting structures.

Modern artificial reefs are manufactured from marine stable products that are of the same makeup as coral and as a result require no maintenance and are not a liability.

South east Queensland has the highest percentage of boat owners in Australia, is the centre of Australia's marine boat building industry and the Gold Coast features one of the safest ocean bars in Australia.

The potential to develop our shallow offshore waters as a world class tourist attraction is enormous.

Gold Coast dive instructor Ian Bank's underwater photos and videos of the Southport Seaway have proven that, given some artificial structure, the Gold Coast waters will attract a rich mix of marine life that would in turn attract tourist from around the world.

Artificial reefs off the Gold Coast are not a problem, they are a solution that will attract and benefit the entire community and increase the Gold Coast's appeal as a world class tourist destination.