

# **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector**

2022-23



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

## Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector 2022-23

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## Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Provided correspondence, held a series of industry information sessions, and progressively reissued all aquaculture lease and licence certificates as part of implementation of the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022</i> .
2.	<p>Provided comment to the Department for Trade and Investment (DTI) on a number of proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SA Water Eyre Peninsula desalination plant development application</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Provided advice to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on several proposed legislative reforms to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Draft national environmental standard for matters of national environmental significance</li> <li>○ Draft national artificial reef guidelines</li> </ul>
4.	Provided comments to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on the draft inputs on the State of the Environment Report, including updates to actions on 2018 recommendations.
5.	Provided comment to Infrastructure SA on the Northern Water Supply project to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture.
6.	Provided advice to DTI regarding proposed amendments to the Planning and Design Code under the Miscellaneous Technical Enhancement Code Amendment to streamline the development assessment and approval process for future marine and land-based aquaculture developments.
7.	<p>Provided advice to the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) on a number of proposed legislative reforms to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Australia's Green Paper on the Energy Transition</li> <li>○ Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Generation Act Issues Paper and Draft Bill</li> </ul>
8.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
9.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader

	conservation policy development.
10.	Continued to attend and provide input to the National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.
12.	Provided comments to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) on the Import of Sturgeon for Aquaculture, Issues Paper as part of a Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis.
13.	Provided comments to DEW on proposed amendments to the <i>Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989</i> .
14.	Meetings and advice to SA Water regarding a proposed desalination plant for the lower Eyre Peninsula and potential impacts to aquaculture.
15.	Continued to provide input and support to the Marine Bioproducts CRC to support sector growth.
16.	Continued to provide input to the Blue Economy CRC Marine Spatial Planning project to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry from other users of the marine resource.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables												
	<b>Activity 1 – Management of Licences</b>												
1.	Maintained the eBusiness environment, systems and procedures that supported day to day administration of licensing activities, including industry consultation, liaison, approval of new users, reviewing licence application forms and processes that increased efficiency in application assessments.												
2.	Ongoing liaison with relevant government (e.g. Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Attorney-General's Department – Native Title) and non- government agencies (industry peak bodies)												
3.	PIRSA maintained efficient working arrangements with EPA, including participation in meetings that increased efficiency and reduced red tape (e.g. site assessment requirements)												
4.	Implemented Broodstock and Seedstock Collection Permit regulations and processed permit applications.												
5.	Maintained internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (checklists and manuals) and performance criteria relating to leases and licences.												
6.	Adhered to internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to leases and licences.												
7.	Implemented revised licence categories for land-based aquaculture licences and ensured all current licences were appropriately categorised based on the risk posed by their operations.												
8.	Processed annual production returns. Followed up Production Returns required to be returned by licence holders in order to have met their obligations under the regulations. 128 of these reports are monitored.												
9.	Generated annual invoices, ensured accuracy, collected associated fees and payments, followed up unpaid invoices through finance checks.												
10.	Processed requests from lease and licence holders through phone calls or e-mails.												
	<b>Activity 2 – Processing of licence applications</b>												
	<p>Processing of Land-based applications.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Land-based: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New land-based</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Renewals</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Variation</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Division</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Land-based: Application Type	Number	New land-based	4	Licence Renewals	4	Licence Transfer	1	Licence Variation	1	Licence Division	1
Land-based: Application Type	Number												
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11.	Followed up on outstanding information that facilitated the assessment of lease and licence applications in an accurate and timely manner (e.g. ASIC, outstanding fees and reporting).
12.	Issued and processed 11 invoices relating to leasing and licence applications.
13.	Ongoing liaison with applicants/licence holders.
14.	Internal risk assessment documents specific to each application were produced.
15.	Referrals and liaison with other government and non-government agencies was undertaken as required (e.g. EPA, DIT/local councils, AGD, Industry).
16.	Responded to public submissions specific to applications.
17.	Adhered to internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to applications.

## Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Input into freedom of information requests in relation to PIRSA's administration of the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Strategic input into the implementation of administrative decisions in all program areas as required to ensure they are informed and legally valid and consistent with the Act to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
4.	Updated sub-delegations of Ministerial powers and functions under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
5.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
6.	Provided input and assistance into the development of draft aquaculture tourism development regulations and supplementary documentation to assist implementation of the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Act 2021</i> .
7.	Input into development of draft consultation Biosecurity Bill to consider impacts on aquaculture
8.	Review of broader government referred Cabinet submissions for aquaculture legislative and administrative impacts.



## Compliance Operations

Deliverables
<p>An inspection of a non-registered fish processor was conducted, with a quantity of frozen yabby located on-site. Further investigation resulted in the location of live yabbies on-site, which was in contravention to the specie permitted to be farmed under the respective aquaculture licence.</p>
<p>Fisheries Officers provided information, including lease and licence conditions requirements, to a prospective entrant to the land-based aquaculture sector.</p>
<p>Fisheries Officers conducted an audit of a site. Numerous ponds containing marron and yabbies were inspected. A number of the ponds were found to be non-operational, with a follow up inspection of the site to be undertaken later in 2023.</p>
<p>Fisheries Officers attended a property to conduct a site inspection including audit of stock on-site. No stock was found to be present during the most recent audit of the site in 2021, and no application had been received by PIRSA since to transfer in stock, yet a quantity of stock was located on-site. Further follow up investigation is being conducted.</p>

# Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Land-based Sector, in accordance with the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Provided for public transparency of use of the State's aquaculture resources (e.g. Public Register is available on the PIRSA website for all stakeholders, including the Land-based Sector, relevant government agencies and general public).
3.	Safeguarded licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g. records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
4.	Included in management of the PIIMS database was assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA ICT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and trouble-shooting with system users.
5.	Included in management of the Public Register system was rollout of updates such as those related to the implementation of the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022</i> , reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occurred and trouble-shooting with system users both internally and externally.
6.	Included in the management of ArcGIS was the rollout of update software, appropriate training for use of the program, recognition, requests and testing for software fixes, liaison with the PIRSA spatial group, reporting spatial information and trouble-shooting with system users.
7.	Management of the Microsoft Access Database included alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
8.	Management and maintenance of an electronic lodgement system for environmental monitoring program and production return data for the Land-based Sector.
9.	Maintenance of the electronic reporting system to retrieve data directly from PIIMS in regards to electronic Environmental Monitoring Reports.
10.	Management of records management systems (e.g. Objective) included testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Ongoing testing, maintenance and trouble-shooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.
12.	Maintain accurate and up to date information on the PIRSA Aquaculture website, including for the Land-based Sector.

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Five invertebrate (including mollusc and crustaceans) related mortality events, and 34 finfish related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. Mortality events included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease and harmful algae.
2.	Coordination of State-wide early detection surveillance for Ostreid herpesvirus type-1 microvariant (OsHV-1) / Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). In 2022/23, ~4462 Pacific Oysters (farmed and feral) were processed. In total, 704 samples were tested, all of which were negative for OsHV-1 / POMS.
3.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarising relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarised fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
4.	8 livestock translocation requests were assessed and approved by PIRSA.
5.	Administered the regulation and compliance for off-label veterinary medicine use. Assessed and processed 10 veterinary medicine use requests for the Land-based Sector to support Ministerial approvals for off label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaised with industry veterinarians, EPA and adjacent industry where required and other government departments during assessment.
6.	Assisted with progress of minor use permit and registration for veterinary medicines with APVMA through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
7.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management Group on stock release applications to ensure the risks of introduction and spread of disease in the State are minimised.
8.	Facilitated the implementation of disease mitigation strategies as identified in risk assessments. This is to facilitate effective disease management (disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies). An example included white spot syndrome virus / white spot disease (WSD) which involved advice and assistance to Biosecurity and industry with regard to WSD detection in New South Wales and Northern Territory to manage risks to South Australia.
9.	Administered four Chief Veterinary Officer approvals for biosecurity audits of two oyster hatcheries and one land-based abalone farm.
10.	Progressed the project "Improving the availability of safe and effective veterinary medicines for Australia's seafood industry (FRDC 2020-094)". In this project, one of our primary aims is coordinate a national effort to facilitate the progress of priority aquatic veterinary medicines in the seafood industry through to permitting or registration with the APVMA.

11.	As part of FRDC 2020-094, sought veterinary medicine priorities from the land-based sector and secured funding for one crustacean and two fish projects to collect data toward permitting products.
12.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
13.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
14.	Advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer (Biosecurity) as required, including for mortality / disease cases, state based emergency response preparedness and for national committees (e.g. Animal Health Committee, National Biosecurity Committee).
15.	Attended Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Working Group (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
16.	Reviewed PIRSA Fish Kill response manual with Biosecurity team and provided Fish Kill investigation training to PIRSA compliance officers.
17.	<p>Reviewed and updated a notice under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Notifiable Diseases</i></li> <li>• <i>Prohibition of Entry into and Movement within South Australia of Decapod Crustaceans (Order Decapoda) and Polychaete Worms (Class Polychaeta)</i></li> </ul> <p>Reviewed and progressed a notice under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prohibition on the Use of Abalone as Bait or Berley</i></li> </ul>

# Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual EMP reports for 61 Land-based licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referrals for four new, one variation and one division relating to Land-based licences.
3.	Assessed 2 development approvals for new and-based sites.
4.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries policy group on one seedstock application and one broodstock application.
5.	Finalised the 2023 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2021/22, including EMP summary information for the Land-based aquaculture sector.
6.	Commenced drafting the 2024 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2022/23, including EMP summary information for the Land-based aquaculture sector.
7.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, and ecological interactions.
8.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
9.	Responded to aquaculture inquiries from the Land-based Sector and interested stakeholders.
10.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Land-based Sector, particularly in relation to site audits. This included provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
11.	Notification to all licence holders permitted to farm algae of the new management arrangements for algae aquaculture.
12.	Reviewed a number of guidelines/proposals/legislation that may impact the Land-based Sector (e.g. Sturgeon live import, Port Lincoln Desalination Plant, Agrifutures Plastic waste project, National FRDC welfare project, National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance, Native Vegetation Act Amendments, Draft Assessment Requirements to guide preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Renascor Battery Anode facility at Bolivar).
13.	Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to or applicable Land-based aquaculture, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P</li> <li>• FRDC 2019-039: South Australian Pacific Oyster selective breeding program: Building POMS resistance to reduce risk for the South Australian Oyster industry</li> </ul>

## Program Management and Administration

	Deliverables
1.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and any other contractual agreements with industry associations.
2.	Project managed and administered external contractual services and agreements – including liaising with PIRSA Accredited Purchasing Unit, preparing acquisition plans and selecting evaluation criteria, managing tender processes, drafting purchase recommendations and liaising with the Crown Solicitor's Office to develop contractual agreements.
3.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
4.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
5.	Ensured appropriate management of industry funds and services.
6.	Coordinated and facilitated cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
7.	Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Land-based Sector for 2022-23 that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
8.	Established permanent framework for educational licence fees for land-based schools
9.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery process and procedures in line with Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines.
10.	Provision of relevant, accurate and timely advice was provided to the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister, so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Land-based Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	Provision of information to inform responses and decisions in relation to public and industry concerns raised with the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister.
13.	Provided administrative support to the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel, e.g. mail outs to all licence/lease holders, meeting coordination, travel bookings and other adhoc administration support during the review.

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2021/22 report.
2.	2021/22 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, drafted, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
3.	Attended and presented at a number of forums and conferences, including the International Seaweed Symposium in Tasmania (February 2023), the World Aquaculture Conference in Darwin (June 2023) and Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity (July 2023) on aquaculture policy and planning, aquatic animal health or environmental matters.
4.	Provided lectures to Flinders University and University of Adelaide students on aquaculture policy and aquatic animal health.