

# PIRSA

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

2020-21



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 2020-21

Information current as of 30 June 2021  
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# Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Conducted further consultation on the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 and supporting Policy Report, finalised the Draft Policy and supporting Policy Report for approval and sought concurrence from the Minister responsible for administering Specially Protected Areas for the Draft Policy. The policy development process included.
2.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure Land-based aquaculture development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader conservation policy development.
3.	Reviewed and provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on the following port facilities in Spencer Gulf, including consideration of potential aquatic disease and marine pest risks to Land-based aquaculture licences with marine intake pipelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of the Cape Hardy Port Environmental Impact Statement addendum</li> <li>• Port Spencer Grain Export Facility amendment to the Public Environmental Report</li> <li>• Lucky Bay shipping channel dredge works application</li> </ul>
4.	Provided ongoing advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for marine-based developments under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture operators, including land-based aquaculture licences with marine intake pipelines.
5.	Provided ongoing advice to DIT on the implementation of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> and associated Regulations. Particularly on the application of the Planning and Design Code and how this relates to land-based aquaculture development, and to mitigate impacts from other forms of development on the aquaculture industry.
6.	Provided formal comment on Regional Landscape Plans to Landscape Boards in regard to promoting aquaculture development.
7.	Provided a submission to a Commonwealth inquiry by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources into the Australian aquaculture sector.
8.	Provided a submission to the SA Environment, Resources and Development Committee Parliamentary inquiry into the role and functions of the Coast Protection Board in relation to aquaculture development applications.
9.	Progressed process to draft and make variation regulations to amend the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 16</i> , in relation to contemporising and streamlining prescribed bodies under regulation 5 for referral of draft aquaculture policies under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
10.	Continued to attend and provide input to the government agency National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.
11.	Continued to work with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and State based interested parties to facilitate the import of sturgeon species into Australia for commercial aquaculture purposes. Completion of a PIRSA, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), in collaboration with the Fisheries Research and Development

	Corporation (FRDC), funded research project to support the DAWE Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis for sturgeon import approval.
12.	Reviewed and provided advice to AGD on an Environmental Impact Statement for ElectraNet Pty Ltd's proposed SA/NSW Interconnector in regard to potential impacts to land-based aquaculture.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables										
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (i.e. flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to Land-based licences.										
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.										
3.	Completed testing and amending electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting										
4.	Reviewed renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.										
5.	Updated licence records as required.										
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of licensing activities related to the Land-based Sector.										
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.										
8.	Records management of licensing documentation.										
9.	<p>Processing of Land-based applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Land-based: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>New Licence*</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Renewals</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Surrender</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Land-based: Application Type	Number	New Licence*	2	Licence Renewals	21	Licence Surrender	1	Licence Transfer	1
Land-based: Application Type	Number										
New Licence*	2										
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Land-based Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned and incorrect production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.										
11.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.										
12.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of licence holders for application processing as required.										
13.	Issued invoices relating to annual fees (including quarterly reminders), licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 72 Land-based licences.										
14.	Reconciled receipt of annual licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.										
15.	Concluded the partial fee relief arrangements for inactive land-based licences										

16.	Conducted assessments for licence holders requesting financial alleviation due to experiencing cases of hardship.
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# Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
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 <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> 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.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
5.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
6.	Assessed and responded to freedom of information requests in relation to PIRSA's administration of the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .



# Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure licence holder compliance with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers.</li> <li>• Follow up inspections as required for sites that have identified compliance issues.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Inspections of marron farming sites on Kangaroo Island were conducted. Results were mixed, with carry over impact from the fire evident through some residual damage to site infrastructure. Some sites were in an unworkable state or no longer operational whilst others appeared well maintained and compliant.</p>
3.	<p>Fisheries Officers inspected a grower who held a large quantity of marron in 20+ tanks. The licence holder was found to not have maintained the appropriate records. The previous Manager no longer worked at the site and the site was found to be needing considerable repair. Fisheries Officers confirmed the presence on site of specie not permitted to be farmed as per the licence. Fisheries Officers will continue to work with the licence holder.</p>
4.	<p>Fisheries Officers liaised with a licence holder whose site had been deemed non-compliant and whose licence had expired. The licence holder was in the process of re-applying for a new licence.</p>
6.	<p>Fisheries Officers investigated an advertisement to sell marron on social media and confirmed the advertisement had been lodged by a licenced operator.</p> <p>A licence holder was educated on fish processing obligations after non-permitted species were located on his site.</p>
7.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Land-based licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of licences.</p>
8.	<p>Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g. high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</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, 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.	Development of an 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 maintenance and trouble-shooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Six invertebrate (including mollusc and crustaceans) related mortality events, and nine finfish related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease.
2.	Reviewed and commented on the final draft report for the Commonwealth project titled "Active surveillance of wild and farmed abalone to establish stronger disease status baselines." This project aimed to demonstrate that wild and farmed Australian abalone were free from withering syndrome, and to provide accurate knowledge of the disease status for AVG and Perkinsus spp. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources with substantial in-kind support and resources from PIRSA.
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.	Nine livestock translocation requests were assessed and approved by PIRSA.
5.	Administered the regulation and compliance for off-label veterinary medicine use. Assessed and processed 21 veterinary prescription 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 veterinarian, EPA where required, any adjacent industry where required and other government departments during assessment.
6.	Assisted with progress of permit and registration for veterinary medicines with APVMA through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), National Aquaculture Council, aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
7.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management Group on Finfish stock release applications to ensure Land-based hatcheries provide adequate health certification and the risks of introduction and spread of disease in the State are minimised.
8.	Provided advice to various government agencies, including the EPA and DIT, and organisations/companies, including Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers Ltd., to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities, including consideration of risks to adjacent land-based farms. PIRSA also provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators.
9.	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).
10.	Progressed the project "Risk factors and management strategies associated with summer mortality in Australian abalone (FRDC: 2019-147)". In this project, our primary aim is to improve current understanding and management of risk factors associated with summer mortality in abalone.

11.	Submitted an application for a project titled "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.
12.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
13.	Communications sent to all fish processors reminding them of the disease risks and current legislative restrictions for processing and distribution of waste for bait and berley and controls on interstate movement of abalone.
14.	PIRSA provided input into developing and reviewing AQUAPLAN 2021-2026, which is Australia's fourth national strategic plan for aquatic animal health. The plan outlines agreed industry and government priorities for enhancing Australia's management of aquatic animal health.
15.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
16.	Attended the Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Technical Advisory Group (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
17.	<p>Reviewed and updated three notices under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Prohibition of Entry into South Australia of Unprocessed Abalone (Haliotis spp.).</i></li> <li>• <i>Declaration of Livestock Movement Restrictions in Relation to Bivalves for the Purposes of Controlling Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome.</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>Published a new notice under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Temporary 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 72 Land-based licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referrals for two new Land-based licence application.
3.	Commenced drafting the 2021 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2019/20, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
4.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, and ecological interactions.
5.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
6.	Respond to aquaculture inquiries from the land-based sector and interested stakeholders.
7.	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.
8.	One environmental site audit was undertaken however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no further land-based site audits were conducted.
9.	Reviewed and provided comment to DIT on Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers Ltd final Assessment Report for the proposed deep water port at Smith Bay, Kangaroo Island.
10.	Reviewed and provided comment to Public Works Committee Submission from SA Water
11.	Reviewed and provided comment on Port Augusta Operations Pty Ltd development application for the proposed Port Playford Export Facility
12.	<p>Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to or applicable Land-based aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CRC-P Advanced surveillance</li> <li>○ Rapid diagnostic method for OsHV-1</li> <li>○ Role of non-C. gigas hosts for POMS</li> <li>○ Infection model for assessing susceptibility to OsHV-1</li> </ul> </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.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
8.	Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Land-based Sector for 2021-22 that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
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 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 Deputy Chief Executive, 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 assistance to land-based aquaculture licence holders impacted from the Kangaroo Island bushfires as part of PIRSA's emergency response.
14.	Provided assistance to the Land-based Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
15.	Finalised PIRSA internal guidelines for assessing fee waiver requests under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	2018/19 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
2.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2019/20 report.
3.	2019/20 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, drafted.
4.	Attended the Urrbrae Agricultural High School Show Day to promote aquaculture related careers.
4.	Facilitated the establishment for, and provided executive officer support to, the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum.

