



Our ref: CORP F2025/000319
Receipt No: 22503941

CORPORATE SERVICES
Level 20
11 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 667
Tel 8429 0422
www.pir.sa.gov.au

8 December 2025

The Hon Tammy Franks MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Franks

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 7 November 2025, seeking access to the following:

“Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical, electronic, or written briefs, minutes, emails, internal correspondence and any other correspondence) regarding the tabling of the South Australian Quality Assurance Program in the Legislative Council on 19 August 2025, and the subsequent correcting of an administrative error relating to the recording of Karenia Mikimoti Counts, which was tabled in the Legislative Council on 3 September 2025.”

Timeframe: 1/03/2025 to 7/11/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located seven documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email thread between Office of the Chief Executive, PIRSA and PIRSA officers dated 27/6/2025 to 15/7/2025 re Request for Minute to Minister – SASQAP Parliament Motion	2
1a	Attachment to Document 1 – Extract from Hansard dated 3/9/2025 – Legislative Council – Pages 9483 and 9484	2

OFFICIAL

2	Email thread between Office of the Chief Executive, PIRSA and PIRSA officers dated 27/6/2025 to 15/7/2025 re Request for Minute to Minister – SASQAP Parliament Motion	3
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Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 31/8/2025 to 8/9/2025 re reply to 10849 - Water sampling	3
4	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 10/9/2025 and 15/9/2025 re QoN re South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program	2
5	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 10/9/2025 and 15/9/2025 re QoN re South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program	3

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

The information removed consists of the following:

- Document 3:
 - Name, landline and mobile telephone numbers of a Departmental officer
- Documents 4 and 5:
 - Names of Departmental officers
 - Identifying information relating to a Departmental officer
 - Mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer

The term ‘personal affairs’ has been held to involve ‘matters of private concern to an individual’ and the ‘composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned’.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the staff members concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1b	Attachment to Document 1 – Attachment to Cabinet document - Order for Production of Papers – Legislative Council	1

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 1(1)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“1 – Cabinet documents

(1) A document is an exempt document –

(c) if it is a document that is a copy of or part of, or contains an extract from, a document referred to in paragraph (a) or (b);”

Paragraph (a), as referred to above, refers to a document which has been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet (whether or not it has been so submitted).

Document 1b consists of an attachment to a Cabinet document which was specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet (whether or not it has been so submitted).

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the “FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination” and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
 Department of Primary Industries and Regions
 GPO Box 1671
 ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA’s disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

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Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MGriffiths', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Griffiths
Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS

From: [Poulos, Con \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Spurling, Sarah \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion
Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 1:03:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.pdf](#)
[Order for Productions of Papers.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Poulos, Con (PIRSA) <Con.Poulos@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 9:18 AM
To: Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA) <Stephen.Poskett@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA) <Sarah.Spurling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

Stephen apologies attachments now with you. Nick and Sarah please provide all of the information requested to Stephen.

Thank you
Con

From: Bonsell, Bernadette (PIRSA) <Bernadette.Bonsell@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 July 2025 12:43 PM
To: Witkowski, Sascha (PIRSA) <sascha.witkowski@sa.gov.au>; Crowther, Anne-Marie (PIRSA) <Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au>; Poulos, Con (PIRSA) <Con.Poulos@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>; Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA) <georgie.cornish@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

Further to Angela's email below we have had updated advice regarding this request.

We have been advised that it should be lodged as a Cabinet note with the associated attachments and not just as a Ministerial briefing.

Just clarifying we will need:

Briefing to the Minister
Cabinet Note
Associated Documents
Speaking notes.

Our apologies for the time constraints but due to receiving this new information we will need the Cabinet note submitted to the OCE by Friday, 18 July.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Many thanks

Bernie

From: Vounasis, Angela (PIRSA) <angela.vounasis@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 12:41 PM
To: Witkowski, Sascha (PIRSA) <sascha.witkowski@sa.gov.au>; Crowther, Anne-Marie (PIRSA) <Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au>; Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA) <georgie.cornish@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>; Bonsell, Bernadette (PIRSA) <Bernadette.Bonsell@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

Hi Georgie, Sascha and Annie

Parliament carried the following motion on Wednesday 18 June, Hansard also attached:

That there be laid upon the table of this council, by the Leader of the Government within 21 days of the passing of this resolution, all documents referencing plankton counts produced or dated from 1 January 2025 related to the SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program along with any additional data generated in response to 2025 calls or contact with the Fishwatch hotline, including marine and non-marine species deaths and including any related plankton counts and water quality assessments at locations of fish kills.

Can Biosecurity please prepare and provide via PIRSA Briefings Workflow the following:

1. Minute to the Minister

- Please outline in the Minute that the Minister is required to table in Parliament on Tuesday 19 August.
- That her office is responsible for the tabling of documents

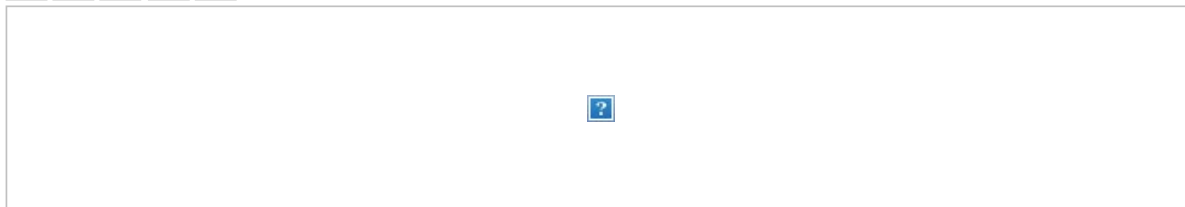
2. All documents referencing plankton counts produced or dated from 1 January 2025 related to the SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program along with any additional data generated in response to 2025 calls or contact with the Fishwatch hotline, including marine and non-marine species deaths and including any related plankton counts and water quality assessments at locations of fish kills.

As Parliament is on their Mid-Winter Break, the documents will need to be tabled by the Minister first day back – **Tuesday 19 August.**

Please provide the above to OCE by 31 July 2025.

Kind Regards

Angela Vounasis | Manager, Ministerial and Cabinet Coordination
Office of the Chief Executive | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | Level 21, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8429 7322 | **E:** Angela.Vounasis@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Thank you. Again, we have those opposite who, if they don't like the answer, like to attack the scientists who have provided it. I don't think that's helpful in this circumstance or any others.

SARDI FISH DEATHS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Supplementary.

The PRESIDENT: Supplementary arising from the answer. I hope that I could hear what the minister actually said at the time.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Is the minister suggesting that she cannot rule out that government departments other than SARDI did not influence or change the outcome of the investigative report to suit the government's agenda?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:32): There were a lot of double negatives in there, but what I can state clearly is that there has been no inappropriate influence from any department. This is about finding, to the extent possible, the reasons for the deaths of the fingerlings and the spat. It is in everyone's interest to find as much information as possible. It needs to be credible information, something that those opposite clearly don't care about a great deal. It needs to be credible information, and I am very confident that all of the credible information that could be provided has been provided.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SHELLFISH QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on the updated version of the South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program that was tabled in this place yesterday.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: The original version of the South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program, which was tabled in this place by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 19 August, detailed that on 24 March there were *Karenia mikimotoi* cell counts of 140,000 cells per litre at Boatswain Point in the South-East. Yesterday, the updated document tabled stated that it was, and I quote, 'correcting an administrative error relating to the recording of *Karenia mikimotoi* counts'. This error, according to the tabled document, was due to human error in the collation and recording of the testing data. My questions to the minister are:

1. Who within PIRSA or SASQAP was responsible for collating and verifying the original results and what accountability measures will be taken for this error?
2. Given the seriousness of *Karenia mikimotoi* blooms, what risk assessments were undertaken to ensure that this administrative error did not impact shellfish safety, aquaculture viability or consumer confidence?
3. How can South Australians have confidence in the accuracy of the South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program testing results when such a significant error, recording 140,000 cells per litre instead of zero, was only corrected months later, after it was brought to the attention of the minister?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): I thank the honourable member for her question. I think pretty much all the information was in the document that was tabled yesterday. There was an error in terms of the location of one of the samples and the counts, and that was corrected as soon as it was brought to the department's attention. All of the other entries were then double-checked and were found to be accurate.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SHELLFISH QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:34): Supplementary: how was the error brought to the department's attention?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): I am happy to take that on notice and bring back a response.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SHELLFISH QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:35): Supplementary: did the ABC bring the error to the department's attention?

The PRESIDENT: We are still talking about the error, so I guess I will allow the supplementary question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:35): I am happy to take that on notice. I think that certainly a media outlet did raise a query. I don't know if that was the only or the first time that it was brought to the department's attention. What I do know is as soon as it was brought to the attention of the department, it was double-checked and, as soon as we were able—as in our first sitting day—it was corrected.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SHELLFISH QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:35): Supplementary: why did the corrected entry not record the presence of dead fish as had been identified in Botswain Point at that particular time, unlike other entries in the data?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:35): I have to check the accuracy of that. I am happy to take it on notice and bring back a response.

ABALONE VIRAL GANGLIONEURITIS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My questions are to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding aquatic disease management:

1. Can the minister advise the chamber of the current frontline of the abalone viral ganglioneuritis, or AVG as it's commonly acronymed, and identify the location and timing of the most northern positive detection?

2. What management plans are currently in place to ensure effective monitoring of the virus over the next six to 12 months?

3. What new measures are being implemented to reduce the risk of cross-contamination between the western boundary of the southern zone and the eastern boundary of the northern zone rock lobster fisheries?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:36): I thank the honourable member for her question. To remind members, on 23 February 2024, abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) was confirmed in wild abalone in waters south of Port MacDonnell in the South-East of our state. AVG is known to occur elsewhere in Australia, including Victoria and Tasmania, but that was the first detection in South Australia. Since the initial detection, abalone collected from areas between Port MacDonnell and Nora Creina have been confirmed positive for AVG, and observations of AVG-infected abalone are now evident as far west as Cape Jaffa. AVG is now considered widespread across the whole southern abalone fishing zone (SAFZ).

With assistance from the commercial abalone industry, a Department of Primary Industries and Regions incident management team was put in place at that time in response to the initial detection. The IMT facilitated surveillance activities and confirmed virus presence at several points west of the initial infection point at Breaksea Reef near Port MacDonnell, included Nene Valley and Nora Creina. While this surveillance and testing was undertaken, a legislated control area and buffer zone was put in place between the Victorian border and the mouth of the Murray River, with associated restrictions and decontamination requirements for fishing equipment prescribed for each area.

From: [Spurling, Sarah \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Wilkinson, Clinton \(PIRSA\)](#); [O'Connor, Michelle \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hanchant, Janiece \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion
Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 1:20:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.pdf](#)
[Order for Productions of Papers.docx](#)

Importance: High

Hi Team,

This is required by this **Thursday AM** – as Stephen will need a day to finalise – needs to provide by Friday.

As per attached:

All Phytoplankton from 1 Jan 2025 to current

Removing non program results however include fishkill related samples (highlighting the difference).

Please provide data in a Spreadsheet.

I'll set up a meeting tomorrow to review.

Regards,
Sarah

From: Poulos, Con (PIRSA) <Con.Poulos@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 9:18 AM
To: Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA) <Stephen.Poskett@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA) <Sarah.Spurling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

OFFICIAL

Stephen apologies attachments now with you. Nick and Sarah please provide all of the information requested to Stephen.

Thank you
Con

From: Bonsell, Bernadette (PIRSA) <Bernadette.Bonsell@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 July 2025 12:43 PM
To: Witkowski, Sascha (PIRSA) <sascha.witkowski@sa.gov.au>; Crowther, Anne-Marie (PIRSA) <Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au>; Poulos, Con (PIRSA) <Con.Poulos@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>; Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA) <georgie.cornish@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

Further to Angela's email below we have had updated advice regarding this request.

We have been advised that it should be lodged as a Cabinet note with the associated attachments and not just as a Ministerial briefing.

Just clarifying we will need:

Briefing to the Minister
Cabinet Note
Associated Documents
Speaking notes.

Our apologies for the time constraints but due to receiving this new information we will need the Cabinet note submitted to the OCE by Friday, 18 July.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Many thanks
Bernie

From: Vounasis, Angela (PIRSA) <angela.vounasis@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 12:41 PM
To: Witkowski, Sascha (PIRSA) <sascha.witkowski@sa.gov.au>; Crowther, Anne-Marie (PIRSA) <Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au>; Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA) <georgie.cornish@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>; Bonsell, Bernadette (PIRSA) <Bernadette.Bonsell@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Minute to the Minister - SASQAP Parliament Motion

Hi Georgie, Sascha and Annie

Parliament carried the following motion on Wednesday 18 June, Hansard also attached:

That there be laid upon the table of this council, by the Leader of the Government within 21 days of the passing of this resolution, all documents referencing plankton counts produced or dated from 1 January 2025 related to the SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program along with any additional data generated in response to 2025 calls or contact with the Fishwatch hotline, including marine and non-marine species deaths and including any related plankton counts and water quality assessments at locations of fish kills.

Can Biosecurity please prepare and provide via PIRSA Briefings Workflow the following:

1. **Minute to the Minister**
 - Please outline in the Minute that the Minister is required to table in Parliament on Tuesday 19 August.
 - That her office is responsible for the tabling of documents
2. **All documents referencing plankton counts produced or dated from 1 January 2025 related to the SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program along with any additional data generated in response to 2025 calls or contact with the Fishwatch hotline, including marine and non-marine species deaths and including any related plankton counts and water quality assessments at locations of fish kills.**

As Parliament is on their Mid-Winter Break, the documents will need to be tabled by the Minister first day back – **Tuesday 19 August.**

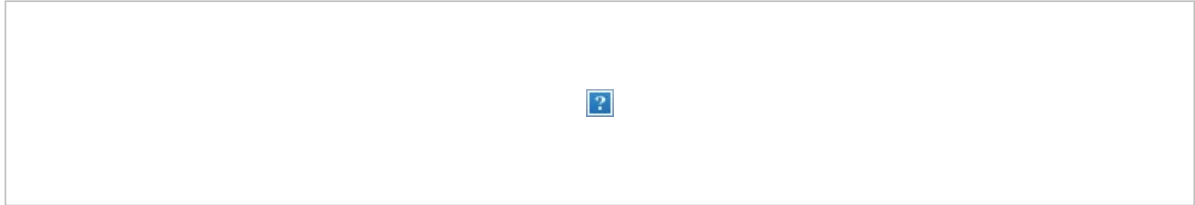
Please provide the above to OCE by 31 July 2025.

Kind Regards

Angela Vounasis | Manager, Ministerial and Cabinet Coordination
Office of the Chief Executive | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | Level 21, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: +61 8429 7322 | **E:** Angela.Vounasis@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA)
To: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA); Clause 6(1) (PIRSA)
Subject: FW: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks
Date: Monday, 15 September 2025 12:01:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[Pages from Legislative Council 2025_09_03.pdf](#)
[image009.png](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Belinda,

I can't answer the first question, I was only made away of the situation from a phone call from Medhi and Georgie, and I found the problem and rectified the following morning.

I can't answer the second question as the comment above.

The third question the corrected spreadsheet did contain dead fish for Victor Harbour, no Karenia cells were found from Boatswain point, and I can see any correspondence, about dead fish at Boatswain point.

Clause 6(1) who organised the collection Clause 6(1), so I have no more information.

This is all I can comment on.

Regards

Clause 6(1)

From: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 10:09 PM
To: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <[Clause 6\(1\)@sa.gov.au](mailto:Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au)>; Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <[Clause 6\(1\)@sa.gov.au](mailto:Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au)>
Subject: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

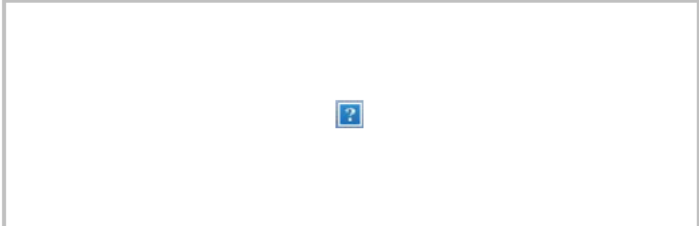
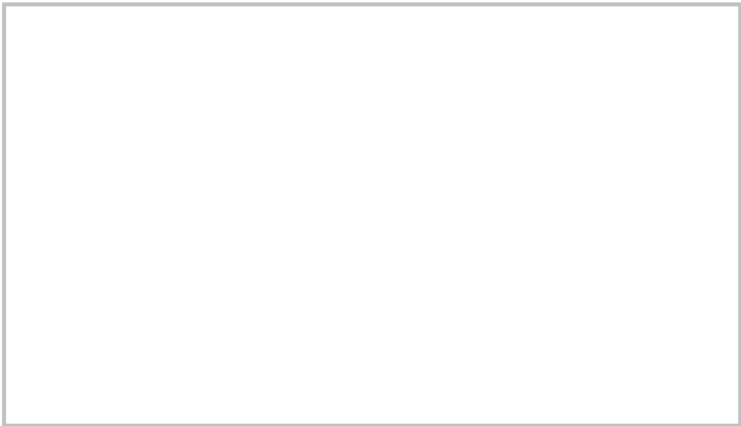
Hello Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1)

Below are QoN that we received and I'm not sure of the history to assist with drafting a response but understand it has relates to a Fish Kill event and the publishing of information.

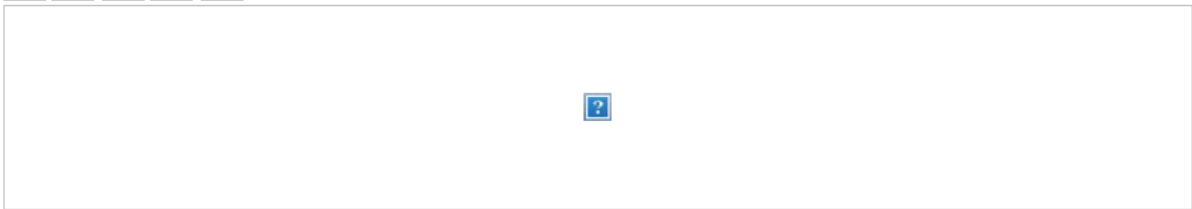
I have attached the Hansard for context and would appreciate some wording below that I can draw from to draft a response for the Minister.

I will need a response by Friday at the latest please.

Thanks very much!



Belinda McGrath-Steer | General Manager, South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program
Biosecurity | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | Street Address
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** Belinda.McGrathsteer@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA)
Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 10:47 AM
To: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA)
Cc: O'Connor, Michelle (PIRSA); Hanchant, Janiece (PIRSA); Palomino, Alessandra (PIRSA); Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA)
Subject: RE: Reply to 10849

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda,

These are sample dates.

Yes that is right.

See below for other comments.

From: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 7 September 2025 11:48 AM
To: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Cc: O'Connor, Michelle (PIRSA) <Michelle.O'Connor@sa.gov.au>; Hanchant, Janiece (PIRSA) <Janiece.Hanchant2@sa.gov.au>; Palomino, Alessandra (PIRSA) <Alessandra.Palomino@sa.gov.au>; Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA) <Sarah.Spurling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Reply to 10849
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Clause 6(1)

This is urgent, please respond to the below email Monday morning.

From: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 2:25 PM
To: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Cc: O'Connor, Michelle (PIRSA) <Michelle.O'Connor@sa.gov.au>; Hanchant, Janiece (PIRSA) <Janiece.Hanchant2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Reply to 10849

Thanks Clause 6(1)

I have a couple of questions -

Is the below sampling dates or result dates?

It looks like we had 2 weekly samples before taking a sending to CAW for confirmation – is that right?

I've tried to put a timeline together for Coorong and Stansbury below – could you please check and include in any additional information so as to ensure it is an accurate timeline of all events, including

the sample dates, results, when samples went to Cawthron, when er received the results, when a decision to close occurred and on what basis?

We will need to maintain a similar timeline for all harvest areas in real time. I know this is a bit, but we need a timeline of actions we took ASAP (Georgie is getting questions).

Coorong -

1. Karenia (sample date) first detected in water sample from Coorong harvest area on: 7/4/25 COR 1 18,920 cells/L
2. Tissue sample (sample date) from pipi sent to AST and CAW on: See below from my e-mail
3. Initial lab reading from AST detected BTX: 28/04/2025 @ 0.08 mg/kg
4. CAW tested and confirmed the presence of BTX on: 19/05/2025 @ 0.50 mg/kg
5. DAFF notified: 1/7/25
6. Harvest area closed: 1/7/25

Stansbury -

1. Karenia (sample date) first detected in water sample from Coorong (Stansbury) harvest area on: 23/4/25
2. Tissue sample (sample date) from pipi (Oyster) sent to AST and CAW on: See below from my e-mail
3. Initial lab reading from AST detected BTX: 28/04/2025 @ 0.44 mg/kg
4. CAW tested and confirmed the presence of BTX on: 19/05/2025 @ 5.20 mg/kg
5. DAFF notified: 5/5/25
6. Harvest area closed: 5/5/25

I'm happy to discuss,

Thanks,
Belinda

From: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 31 August 2025 5:05 PM
To: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>
Cc: O'Connor, Michelle (PIRSA) <Michelle.O'Connor@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Reply to 10819

OFFICIAL

Hi Belinda,

As Hon.T.A Franks has asked, fishing industry (pipis, vongole, only fishing under SASQAP) Stansbury aquaculture added as per e-mail.

AST detected COR 28/4/25	0.08 mg/kg
AST detected COR 5/5/23	0.63 mg/kg
CAW detected COR 19/5/25	0.50 mg/kg

AST detected ST 28/4/25	0.44 mg/kg
AST detected ST 5/5/25	0.63 mg/kg
CAW detected ST 19/5/25	5.20 mg/kg

Vongole on west coast all good, no issues.

We closed because we saw a trend happening, never seen before, with increasing algal counts and toxin levels. BTX has never been detected in Australia, novel toxin, here now in SA, precautionary closure was implemented.

First sample, export areas (DAFF comms), affected harvesting areas 19/5/25 sent to NZ.

Hope this helps.

Regards
Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1) | Program Leader SASQAP
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 1 Hindmarsh St.
PO Box 5 PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
T: Clause 6(1) | M: Clause 6(1) | E: Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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From: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA)
To: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA); Clause 6(1) (PIRSA)
Subject: RE: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks
Date: Monday, 15 September 2025 1:02:46 PM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi,

I have no idea, thought this may be part of the freedom of information request.

Regards

Clause 6(1)

From: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 1:01 PM
To: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>; Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Clause 6(1) - can you please let me know who made the information public? Do you know where it's published?

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From: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:00:56 PM
To: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>; Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Belinda,

I can't answer the first question, I was only made away of the situation from a phone call from Medhi and Georgie, and I found the problem and rectified the following morning.

I can't answer the second question as the comment above.

The third question the corrected spreadsheet did contain dead fish for Victor Harbour, no Karenia cells were found from Boatswain point, and I can see any correspondence, about dead fish at Boatswain point.

Clause 6(1) who organised the collection Clause 6(1), so I have no more information.

This is all I can comment on.

Regards

Clause 6(1)

From: McGrath-Steer, Belinda (PIRSA) <belinda.mcgrathsteer@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 10:09 PM

To: Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <[Clause 6\(1\)@sa.gov.au](mailto:Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au)>; Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) <[Clause 6\(1\)@sa.gov.au](mailto:Clause 6(1)@sa.gov.au)>

Subject: QoN - A7111705 South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Tammy Franks

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

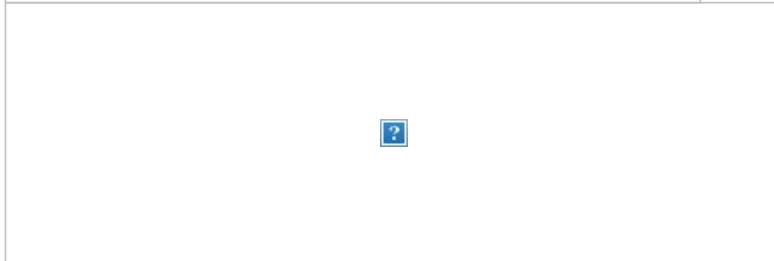
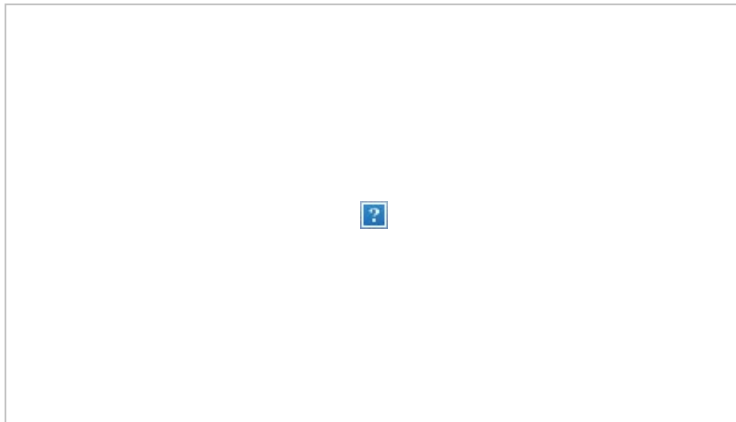
Hello Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1)

Below are QoN that we received and I'm not sure of the history to assist with drafting a response but understand it has relates to a Fish Kill event and the publishing of information.

I have attached the Hansard for context and would appreciate some wording below that I can draw from to draft a response for the Minister.

I will need a response by Friday at the latest please.

Thanks very much!



Biosecurity | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Street Address

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** Belinda.McGrathsteer@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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