

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Marine Algae Sector

2023-24



Government
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Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

OFFICIAL

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector 2023-24

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Resource Planning

Deliverables
<p>Activity 1 – Strategic resource planning and management</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic zone policy planning met the future requirements of industry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2023</i> (LEP Policy) was finalised and came into effect on 2 November 2023 to provide for future expansion of the algae aquaculture sector in this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone policy templates and procedures were reviewed to remain up to date with changing circumstances that impact on zone policy development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of Marine Algae leases and licences within an existing aquaculture zone was in accordance with the respective zone’s prescribed requirements including processes related to the Aquaculture Tenure Allocation Board (ATAB). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commenced preparations to undertake a public call to release lease tenure in the LEP Policy. ○ Completed process to reappoint ATAB members and seek two new ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i>. ○ Inducted members of the ATAB regarding the public call process for lease tenure applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal policies and guidelines that flow from the amendments to the Act and Regulations were developed; such Sector-based aquaculture strategies, and ATAB procedures etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed review of ATAB procedures. ○ Commenced internal policies and procedures relating to the assessment, approval and ongoing management of aquaculture tourism development authorities following amendments to the Aquaculture Act and Regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of Renewal Guidelines in determining renewal terms of leases and corresponding licences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed aquaculture zones with algae allocations, for use, productivity and commonly occurring operational concerns, including through enquires from existing and potential aquaculture industry stakeholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced implementation of the LEP Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to implement the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022 (SLLCP)</i>, including through reissuing of aquaculture lease and licence certificates.
<p>Activities 2 & 3 – Zone policy review and development of new regions or emerging sectors</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of aquaculture zones in suitable areas for the creation of new locations for the farming of algae and other species. All tasks associated with zone policy development activities are undertaken and completed.

- Ongoing maintenance of core policy development activities and processes, including industry consultation and liaison.
- Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments and prescribed bodies in relation to zone policy development.
 - Consulted with government agencies and prescribed bodies during finalisation and implementation of the LEP Policy.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture worked with the South Australian Research and Development Institute Aquatic Sciences (SARDI) to develop outcomes in relation to provisions within the LEP Policy that refer to changes in prescribed maximum biomass and zone locations

Activity 4 - Provide input to, and alignment with, broader State and national policy development activities and planning frameworks that impact on South Australian aquaculture zone development processes

- Ongoing input to broader State and national policy, legislative and planning frameworks that influence marine algae zone development processes:
 - Department for Trade and Investment (DTI):
 - SA Water Eyre Peninsula desalination plant development application
 - Northern Water development application- Draft Assessment Requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT):
 - Amendments to the *Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2023* - proposed transshipment points near Wallaroo
 - Department for Energy and Mining (DEM):
 - Draft Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023
 - Draft Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations 2024
 - Draft impact assessment criteria and guidelines for the *Energy Resources Act 2000*
 - Green Paper on South Australia's energy transition
 - Draft Energy Resources Act 2023 and Regulations
 - Sapphire Retention Lease Proposal
 - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE):
 - Draft National Hydrogen Strategy
 - Draft National Environmental Standards for Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act.
 - Department for Environment and Water (DEW):
 - Animal Welfare Act amendments
 - Proposed Biodiversity Act
 - *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* review
 - Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR):
 - *Offshore Petroleum & Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* consultation requirements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill ○ State Planning Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Kangaroo Island Regional Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ongoing participation in broader government processes, at a national and state level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blue Economy CRC Marine Spatial Planning Project ○ National Aquaculture Committee

Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

Deliverables
<p>Activity 1 - Management of leases and licences</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintained the eBusiness environment, systems and procedures to supported day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities, including industry consultation and liaison, approval of new users, and reviewing licence application forms and processes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ongoing liaison with relevant government (e.g., Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Attorney-General's Department (AGD) – Native Title) and non-government agencies).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided case management functions to licence holders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supported the new seaweed industry through leasing and licensing activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued implementation of an administrative agreement between PIRSA and the EPA through meetings discussing ways to ensure efficiencies are maintained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintained internal lease and licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance criteria relating to leases and licences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated bank guarantees as required depending on development rates on aquaculture sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintained internal audit functions in relation to insurance, indemnity and bank guarantees for aquaculture leases, including requesting evidence of cover from lease holders as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Generated annual and application fee invoices, collected associated fees and payments, followed up unpaid invoices. Reconciled receipt of annual lease and licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Processed requests from lease and licence holders who made enquiries over the phone or by e-mail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Processed annual production returns and environmental monitoring reports from the marine algae sector. This included reminders and follow-up of unsubmitted reports to ensure licence holders met their obligations under the Act and ensured information was collated efficiently for the development of the annual economic reporting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed all lease and licence application forms and amended where required to ensure internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to each application was adhered to.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed and provided advice on broodstock permits for the marine algae sector.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reissued lease and licence certificates following implementation of SLLCP.
<p>Activity 2 - Processing of lease and licence applications</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted the Aquatic Animal Health program with the assessment of translocation applications in an accurate and timely manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued and processed invoices relating to lease and licence applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided case management functions to licence holders such as discussions prior to application submissions, following up on outstanding information or requirements and ongoing discussions relating to the assessment of applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing liaison with applicant/licence holder and other government and non-government agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook administrative processing of marine algae sector applications submitted under the Act as required (e.g., renewals, transfers, variations).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of internal risk assessment documents specific to each application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to Case Management administration (e.g., payment plans) were adhered to.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals and liaison with other government and non-government agencies as required (e.g., EPA, DIT, AGD, State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP), Industry).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-issue of licence certificates following development of new licence conditions relating to inter and intra state translocations of algae.

Legislation

Deliverables
Activity 1 - Administration of the Act and Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported implementation of informed and legally valid administrative decisions consistent with the Act to review and promote efficient and transparent government administration and industry development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal strategic, Crown and Parliamentary Counsel legal input into new internal policies, procedures, documents, correspondence, instruments and decisions under the Act as amended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amended the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 2016</i> to assist implementation of amendments to the Aquaculture Act for aquaculture related tourism developments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported for the prescription of fees and referral to and liaison with Parliamentary committees as may be required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing problem-solving, review and implementation of the requirements of and developments under the Act as amended and Regulations.
Activity 2 - Legal services and legislative interpretation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of the Act, Regulations and applicable Statutory Policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction of the Act with requirements of other legislation and subordinate instruments and policies (e.g., <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>, <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>, <i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i>, <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>, <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>, and <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i>) and others as necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input into the review of the Biosecurity Act as it may relate to algae

Compliance Operations

Deliverables
Activity 1 - Operational planning and implementation (section 82 of the Act)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance related issues of key importance and relevance to the Marine Algae sector were communicated to the sector in a timely manner, including advance notice of site inspections
Activity 2 – Site surveillance (parts 6 and 7; Section 82A; Regulation 25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook site inspections; ensuring licence holder compliance with licence conditions and requirements of the Aquaculture Act 2001 and the Aquaculture Regulations 2016.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely communication of inspection outcomes to relevant licence holders, including identification of instances of both compliance and non-compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook re-inspections of non-compliant sites, including ongoing liaison with responsible licence holders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook inspections of sites due to be or that have been rehabilitated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to information provided by members of the public or SA government agencies in relation to compliance issues relevant to the Marine Algae sector.
<p>Activity 3 – Aquaculture Compliance liaison (Section 9 of the Act)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought assistance from Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy and Environment staff in relation to compliance activities. Includes, but not limited to scheduling of sector specific site inspections, confirmation of licence and lease conditions, positioning of sites, confirmation of sites requiring or subject to rehabilitation and provision of assistance in field-based compliance initiatives.

Aquaculture Systems

Deliverables
<p>Activity 1 - IT systems management</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate and efficient systems were maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the aquaculture industry, in accordance with the Act.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided for public transparency of use of the States aquaculture resources (e.g., Public Register is available on the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture website for all stakeholders, including the aquaculture industry, relevant government Agencies and general public).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To safeguard lease and licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g., records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the management of the PIIMS database is assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and troubleshooting with system users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the management of the Public Register system is the rollout of updates, reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occur and troubleshooting with system users both internally and externally.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the management of ArcGIS is 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 troubleshooting with system users.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the Microsoft Database includes alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of records management systems (e.g., Objective) may include testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and maintained an electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained accurate and up to date information on the PIRSA Aquaculture website, including for the marine algae sector

Aquatic Animal Health

PIRSA AAH Program - expected deliverables for algae
Activity 1 - Management of aquatic health risks and emergency response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained the ability to deliver accurate and timely investigations for minor and major disease / mortality events (e.g., unexplained mortality event) and information to lease and licence holders to provide for appropriate response.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 2023-24 period, there were no reported macroalgae kills or suspected disease in aquaculture.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored and responded to harmful algae blooms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured the maintenance and accuracy of PIRSA's passive surveillance database.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported licence holders in regard to translocation applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One macroalgae translocation request were assessed and approved by PIRSA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed internal risk assessment documents, where required.
Activity 2 - Provide input to and alignment with broader state and national biosecurity policy frameworks, legislation and other processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input to national policy developments to ensure alignment with South Australian considerations and priorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input into the Biosecurity Bill.

Environmental Monitoring and Management

Deliverables
Activity 1 - Management of environmental monitoring programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 4 marine algae licences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided case management functions to licence holders (e.g. discussions prior to application submissions, following up on outstanding information or requirements relating to applications).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored periodic EMP results against impacts to the benthic habitat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMP summary of EMP reports is available through the South Australian Aquaculture Report, available on the PIRSA website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalised the 2023 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2021/22, including a summary of EMP information for the Marine Algae sector.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 a summary of EMP information for the Marine Algae sector.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed, troubleshoot and maintained a database to allow licence holders to access, fill out and submit EMP proformas electronically.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to industry requests and questions regarding applications and management of leases and licences.
Activity 2 - Response to environmental issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the Fisheries Unit with assessment of seedstock and broodstock collection permits to facilitate industry development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed broodstock collection permits to facilitate industry development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the Aquatic Animal Health program with the assessment of translocation applications in an accurate and timely manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and approved strategies relating to interactions with marine mammals and escape of stock (until a sector-based strategy is developed and adopted) in association with transfer and variation applications.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to aquaculture industry.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented Microalgae Management Areas (MMA's) in seedstock, translocations and licence applications.
<p>Activity 3 - Provide input to and alignment with State and National environmental policy, legislation and strategies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation on National Seaweed Aquaculture Working Group (National Aquaculture Committee)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input into state and national climate change and carbon related committees, groups, policy, legislation and strategies to influence positive incorporation of algae aquaculture to facilitate growth in the industry and realise its potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented the Algae sector at inter and intra, Departmental and Agency meetings and workshops, particularly in relation to environmental issues, development of new legislative arrangements/tools, research (e.g. e.g. amended Lower Eyre Peninsula zone policy and licence application discussions).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input is provided on behalf of the Algae sector to internal PIRSA documents, strategies/work plans and external legislation or policies that may impact the Algae sector (e.g. EPA scorecards which evaluate the impact on marine environment).
<p>Activity 4 - Identify research needs/opportunities for sustainable aquaculture planning and management</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained up to date knowledge on literature regarding algal farming, methods and impacts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided input into securing research FRDC projects, such as integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) in southern Australia and developing biomass assessment approaches, harvest methodologies and biosecurity knowledge for wild-harvest of seaweeds in southern Australia, with outcomes expected to help inform sustainable planning and management of the Marine Algae Sector in the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced a review of internal ESD risk assessment guidelines to consider aquaculture tourism developments and updated general assessment items relating to the Marine Algae sector.
<p>Activity 5 – Expressions of interest</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided support for existing and new industry members regarding development proposals to farm marine algae.

Program Management and Administration

Deliverables
<p>Activities 1, 2 and 3 - (Directorate, Human Resource Management and Administration, Operational and Strategic Business Planning)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic direction provided to aquaculture development in South Australia.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and any other contractual agreements with industry associations – 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and development of human resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, reviewed, and implemented policies and procedures relating to administrative practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, reviewed, and monitored customer satisfaction standards and implement recommendations for improvement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate and timely project management and administration of external contractual services and agreements that are consistent with SA Public Service standards and legal obligations (e.g. tenders for rehabilitation of suspended aquaculture sites).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, reviewed monitored and implemented PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's budget and business plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated alignment of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture strategies and actions with State plans and strategic frameworks.
<p>Activity 4 - Financial management and cost recovery</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Algae Sector for the 2023/24 period that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated and facilitated cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery process and procedures in line with Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines.
<p>Activity 5 Provision of timely advice to Chief Executive and Minister – PIRSA and other government agencies</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an emerging industry, regular briefs are requested in regard to the algae sector.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided relevant, accurate and timely advice 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 Algae Sector. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consulted with the Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided feedback on DEW's draft submission for South Australian adoption of Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding – Agreement on a common assessment method for listing threatened species |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided feedback on the draft National Environmental Standard for Matters of National Environmental Significance. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed and provided feedback on a draft In-water cleaning guidance document for South Australia. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided feedback to the Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) on the 10-kilometre visual amenity layer included in the constraints analysis undertaken by WSP for the Offshore wind component of the study areas for the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed and provided feedback to the EPA for the State of the Environment report and associated web pages. |

Other Aquaculture Activities

Deliverables
<p>Activity 1 - Perform economic and production forecasting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Marine Algae industry sector production data collated and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling the next (2022/23) annual aquaculture economic report. • Reviewed, finalised and published the 2022/23 annual aquaculture economic report on the PIRSA website which incorporates the Marine Algae industry sector data for 2021/22. • Production return data reported to Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).
<p>Activity 2 - Marketing research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate and timely extension of recommendations from economic and marketing research to the marine algae industry sector. • Representation of achievements of aquaculture in SA at national and international forums and conferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity ○ 13th Asia Pacific Marine Biotechnology Conference ○ Delegation from Shandong, China ○ the Australian Sustainable Seaweed (ASSA) workshop, on aquaculture policy and planning, aquatic animal health or environmental matters. • Provided lectures to Flinders University and University of Adelaide students on aquaculture policy and aquatic animal health.