



Chair Report Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)

10 April 2025

Dear Stakeholders,

On 18 March 2025, the **Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)** reconvened to progress the recommendations and address the key challenges identified by the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel (ICRRP). This meeting focused on various important topics, including:

- Single Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)
- Consultants Benchmarking Process and Report Timeframes
- 2025-26 Cost Recovery Process
- PIRSA Digitalisation.

Single Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)

PIRSA has developed a single CRIS across the entire South Australian Seafood Industry. This document will be a first for industry as they will easily be able to see what each sector is paying, and generate informed discussion on potential changes in their own sector. Most of industry would be previously unaware of all the information included in the single CRIS.

The CRIC reviewed the single CRIS and had discussions on the following components:

- Cost Contributions
- Cost Recovery Principles
- Risk-Catch-Cost
- Overs and Unders
- Annual Performance Reporting
- Upcoming Digitisation
- Transparency and Goodwill
- Sector Summaries

SISA suggested coordinating messaging from industry Executive Officers to provide a synopsis of each sector to be sent in conjunction to the draft CRIS, as wider industry would benefit from fishery/sector specific context to assist each fishery in their comprehension and potential utilisation of the single CRIS.

A draft on the cost recovery principles is being developed by CRIC industry members from an industry perspective, and will be shared with the CRIC once finalised. This work represents a significant step forward in industry leadership on cost recovery reform.

Consultants Benchmarking Process and Report Timeframes

SISA is continuing to work towards providing the CRIC a final quote for the consultants to undertake benchmarking activities. The consultants require the appropriate skillset, experience and independence from government to undertake the benchmarking activities.

The CRIC's role is to guide the consultants and provide the overarching principles, and allow the consultants to get into the specifics.

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PIRSA will arrange for the consultants to facilitate government and industry discussions regarding benchmarking activities and gain insight to the sectors. The aim is for the consultants to provide the CRIC and industry with a thorough list of recommendations. This will provide the confidence that the benchmarking activities have explored every aspect, collaboratively, in order to achieve a full review of the Science and Compliance programs.

The Project Lead will collate a final report, which will be a concise, overarching review of all the benchmarking activities and recommendations, with sub-reports going into the specifics, reflecting the below structure:

- Benchmarking Report of PIRSA Compliance and SARDI Science (by Project Lead)
- Benchmarking of Aquaculture Science and Compliance
- Benchmarking of Fisheries Science
- Benchmarking of Fisheries Compliance

There is great value in ensuring that the Project Lead will be involved in all discussions with the consultants, industry and government, to hear the varying viewpoints. Similarly, engaging both fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders as a whole, could lead to identifying universal challenges and opportunities.

The CRIC discussed the proposed timeframes for the consultants' deliverables. PIRSA will work with SISA and the consultants to develop a realistic project timeline and reporting schedule, to be agreed by all parties. There was consensus that it is preferable to take the time to receive a high-quality, considered report rather than rush to meet a predetermined deadline.

The CRIC discussed the approach to PIRSA related costs and SARDI Project Scopes, and the expectations around SARDI's involvement in cost recovery processes. A collaborative approach with industry will be necessary to prioritise sector-specific research needs. The benchmarking process will provide an opportunity to identify opportunities to realise further value.

The consultants will play a key role in testing assumptions regarding work programs and outcomes, particularly where trade-offs exist – for example, conducting stock assessments every three years versus implementing fixed TACCs over the same period. These considerations will align with the overarching risk-catch-cost principle and help guide the development of a more sustainable model.

2025-26 Cost Recovery Process

The CRIC was further updated on the already agreed process for setting the 2025-26 fees, required to be finalised before the longer-term principles were finalised.

PIRSA Digitalisation

PIRSA discussed upcoming digital transformation initiatives, which are subject to capital funding approval, noting that all current projects are being pursued at no direct cost to industry.

PIRSA continues to encourage the transition away from paper-based processes. Outreach has been undertaken to contact all licence holders without digital contact details.

There was discussion on cost-sharing arrangements for future digital platforms. A shared contribution model was supported in principle, based on the availability and access to systems rather than usage volume alone.

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Committee Next Steps

The CRIC has agreed on several **key actions** to move forward as quickly as possible:

1. SISA to provide all final benchmarking proposals and quotes to PIRSA.
2. Once finalised and endorsed by industry, the cost recovery principles document from an industry perspective will be shared with the Committee.
3. SISA to coordinate messaging from industry at the Executive Officer meeting to provide a synopsis of each sector to be sent in conjunction to the draft CRIS.
4. PIRSA to circulate the draft single CRIS to the Committee for review and feedback, prior to sending to industry.

The fifth meeting of the CRIC revisited the ICRRP's recommendations and Government responses to ensure that there is no oversight and no recommendations missed. The CRIC will ensure the consultants have the appropriate skillset, experience and independence from government to undertake the benchmarking activities, and be involved in all discussions with industry and government, to hear the varying viewpoints.

The **next CRIC meeting is scheduled for 13 May 2025**, and regular meetings will continue to ensure that the momentum is maintained.

For more information relating to the Independent Cost Recovery Review and the latest from the CRIC, including the Committee's terms of reference, please visit the [PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture independent cost recovery review webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Mr Brian Jeffriess

CRIC Independent Chair