



Our ref: CORP F2025/000320
Receipt No: 22504023

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 media reporting on 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 Mikimotoi counts, which was tabled in the Legislative Council on 3 September 2025.”

Timeframe: 1/08/2025 to 7/11/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located eight 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
2	Email from DPC/PIRSA media officer to PIRSA media officer dated 28/8/2025 re ABC response re Boatswain Point	1
2a	Attachment to Documents 2, 3 and 4: Email from Senior Biosecurity Officer – Aquatic Pests, PIRSA dated 24/3/2025 re count numbers for water samples	1
5	Email from PIRSA:Media to officers of the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/8/2025 re Media Summary 28/8/2025	3

OFFICIAL

The information redacted from Document 2a was contained in this form in the original document and not in response to your application.

The information removed from Document 5 refers to unrelated media items and is outside of the scope of your request.

Determination 2

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

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email thread between PIRSA media officers and ABC staff member dated 27/3/2025 and 27/8/2025 re test results from Robe water / ABC enquiry	4
3	Email thread between PIRSA media officers and ABC staff members dated 27/3/2025 to 28/8/2025 re test results from Robe water / ABC enquiry / PIRSA response – Boatswain Point and Robe mortalities	4
4	Email thread between PIRSA media officers and ABC staff member dated 27/3/2025 to 28/8/2025 re test results from Robe water / ABC enquiry / PIRSA response – Boatswain Point and Robe mortalities	4
6	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 31/8/2025 to 8/9/2025 re reply to 10849 - Water sampling	3
7	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 19/9/2025 re Question without Notice – Robe and South East water testing results	2

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:

- Documents 1, 3 and 4:
 - Names of staff members of a media outlet
 - Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers and media staff members

- Document 6:
 - Name and landline/mobile telephone numbers of a Departmental officer

- Document 7:
 - Name and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers

OFFICIAL

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.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

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

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.

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

OFFICIAL

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

Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 3:16 PM
To: PIRSA:Media
Cc: Clause 6(1) DG-News Online SA
Subject: RE: ABC enquiry

Hey Tom,

The figure is from a document relating to plankton counts and marked "SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program" that was, I believe, tabled in the Legislative Council on August 19.

A section titled "Karenia species Results" contained the figure mentioned below.

Thanks,

Clause 6(1)

From: PIRSA:Media
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 2:47 PM
To: Clause 6(1); PIRSA:Media
Cc: Clause 6(1); DG-News Online SA
Subject: RE: ABC enquiry

OFFICIAL

Hi Clause 6(1)

I am following up for you, though 5pm is an incredibly quick deadline given we have to go through historical data to be able to make sure we have the full picture.

Which "newly released data" are you referring to? Im just asking so I know exactly what you are talking about.

Thanks
Tom

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

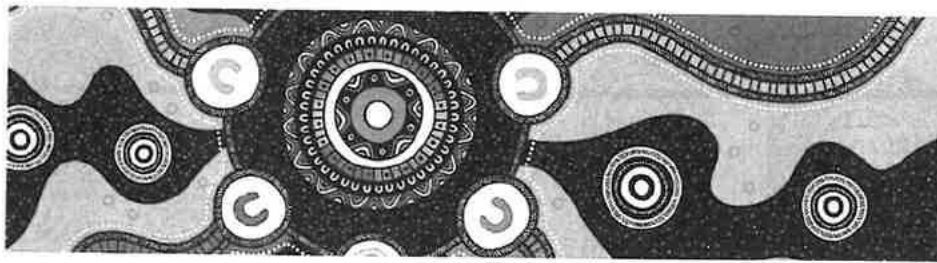
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au





Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

Artwork by Ngorindjeri artist Jordan Lovegrove.

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From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 2:26 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>; DG-News Online SA <DG-NewsOnlineSA@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC enquiry

Hey team,

We are working on a story for ABC News about *karenia mikimotoi* detection along the SA coast, including the South East.

In an email to the ABC sent on March 27 (see below), a PIRSA spokesperson stated that “*water testing near Robe did not detect any Karenia mikimotoi*” and that there was “*not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East*”.

That statement followed an ABC story recording the concerns of a local fisher who had noticed distressed marine animals near Boatswain Point. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-21/boatswain-point-water-quality-concerns-fisher-livelihood-at-risk/105077318>

According to newly-released data, mikimotoi was in fact detected in a sample taken several days prior. The data shows a mikimotoi reading of 140,000 parts per litre at Boatswain Point – in the Robe area – on March 24. (That level, we have been advised, is equivalent to what is occurring along Adelaide metro coasts at the moment).

- Why was the information provided to the ABC not corrected? Why was it not made public, or passed onto locals, at the time?
- Was the public record ever corrected?
- Were fishers in the area who had raised concerns over dead fish notified of the detection? When did that occur?

- In June, PIRSA revealed it had detected elevated chlorophyll-a levels along a stretch of the South East coast – was this the first time PIRSA had acknowledged the presence of the bloom in the region?
- How does the department respond to claims that local fishers, who had noticed a large downturn in their catch, have effectively been “gaslit” by authorities who left them in the lurch?

My deadline for a response is 5pm and my number is Clause 6(1).

Please “reply all” to ensure my colleagues can access the response.

Thanks and kind regards,

Clause 6(1)

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Test results from Robe water

OFFICIAL

Hi Clause 6(1)

Please see the response below attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

Results from water testing near Robe did not detect any Karenia mikimotoi, which was determined as the cause of the algal bloom on Fleurieu Peninsula.

At this stage, there is not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East.

PIRSA would like to remind people that if they notice something unusual involving dead or dying fish along any waterways or the coast to call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Opie | Senior Media Adviser

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

T: +61 8429 2456 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** rebecca.opie@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au





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Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Opie, Rebecca (DPC)
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 12:33 PM
To: Dougherty, Tom (PIRSA)
Cc: PIRSA:Media; Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA); Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA); Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA)
Subject: ABC response re Boatswain Point
Attachments: Cell count summary for Boatswain Point 24.3.25.jpg
Categories: Harmful Algal Bloom, Tom

OFFICIAL

Hi Tom,

Can you please pass this on to ABC in response to their enquiry? Thank you.

Statement attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

The information provided to the ABC on 27 March 2025 was correct.

As noted in the summary attached provided by a Senior Biosecurity Officer on 24 March 2025, water samples collected from Boatswain Point on 20 March 2025 indicated nothing of concern that would relate to the fish mortalities and no karenia mikimotoi was detected.

The count of 140,000 cells per litre on 24 March 2025 in fact aligns to a detection at Victor Harbor, not Boatswain Point.

The table will be amended to reflect this fact.

From: [REDACTED] (PIRSA) <[REDACTED]@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 24 March 2025 11:52 AM

To: [REDACTED] (PIRSA) <[REDACTED]@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Count numbers for the water samples

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

I have spoken with [REDACTED] who advised the following:

1. The count of *Karenia mikimotoi* in the Victor Harbor samples was 140,000 cells/L. Cell numbers need to be in the millions of cells/L to kill marine life.
2. In the samples from Boatswain Point, there was nothing of concern relating to mortalities. The only thing to note was 500 cells/L of *Prorocentrum lima* (a toxic dinoflagellate that can produce diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) toxins) but is considered a low count.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dr. [REDACTED] Senior Biosecurity Officer – Aquatic Pests 🌐 🇦🇺 🦀 🦑

Invasive Species Unit | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | Building 1, Entry 4, Waite Road, Urrbrae

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

[REDACTED]

pir.sa.gov.au



Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Dougherty, Tom (PIRSA)
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 12:40 PM
To: [Clause 6\(1\)@abc.net.au](#); [Clause 6\(1\) DG-NewsOnlineSA@abc.net.au](#)
Cc: PIRSA:Media
Subject: PIRSA Response - Boatswain Point and Robe mortalities (ABC)
Attachments: Cell count summary for Boatswain Point 24.3.25.jpg

OFFICIAL

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Please see the below.

Statement attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

The information provided to the ABC on 27 March 2025 was correct.

As noted in the summary attached provided by a Senior Biosecurity Officer on 24 March 2025, water samples collected from Boatswain Point on 20 March 2025 indicated nothing of concern that would relate to the fish mortalities and no karenia mikimotoi was detected.

The count of 140,000 cells per litre on 24 March 2025 in fact aligns to a detection at Victor Harbor, not Boatswain Point.

The table will be amended to reflect this fact.

Regards

Tom

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Media Inbox: PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 2:26 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>; DG-News Online SA <DG-NewsOnlineSA@abc.net.au>
Subject: ABC enquiry

Hey team,

We are working on a story for ABC News about *karenia mikimotoi* detection along the SA coast, including the South East.

In an email to the ABC sent on March 27 (see below), a PIRSA spokesperson stated that “*water testing near Robe did not detect any Karenia mikimotoi*” and that there was “*not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East*”.

That statement followed an ABC story recording the concerns of a local fisher who had noticed distressed marine animals near Boatswain Point. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-21/boatswain-point-water-quality-concerns-fisher-livelihood-at-risk/105077318>

According to newly-released data, mikimotoi was in fact detected in a sample taken several days prior. The data shows a mikimotoi reading of 140,000 parts per litre at Boatswain Point – in the Robe area – on March 24. (That level, we have been advised, is equivalent to what is occurring along Adelaide metro coasts at the moment).

- Why was the information provided to the ABC not corrected? Why was it not made public, or passed onto locals, at the time?
- Was the public record ever corrected?
- Were fishers in the area who had raised concerns over dead fish notified of the detection? When did that occur?
- In June, PIRSA revealed it had detected elevated chlorophyll-a levels along a stretch of the South East coast – was this the first time PIRSA had acknowledged the presence of the bloom in the region?
- How does the department respond to claims that local fishers, who had noticed a large downturn in their catch, have effectively been “gaslit” by authorities who left them in the lurch?

My deadline for a response is 5pm and my number is Clause 6(1).

Please "reply all" to ensure my colleagues can access the response.

Thanks and kind regards,

Clause 6(1)

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>
Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Test results from Robe water

OFFICIAL

Hi Elsie,

Please see the response below attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

Results from water testing near Robe did not detect any Karenia mikimotoi, which was determined as the cause of the algal bloom on Fleurieu Peninsula.

At this stage, there is not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East.

PIRSA would like to remind people that if they notice something unusual involving dead or dying fish along any waterways or the coast to call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Opie | Senior Media Adviser

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

T: +61 8429 2456 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** rebecca.opie@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: Dougherty, Tom (PIRSA)
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 5:10 PM
To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI)
Cc: PIRSA:Media
Subject: FW: PIRSA Response - Boatswain Point and Robe mortalities (ABC)
Attachments: Cell count summary for Boatswain Point 24.3.25.jpg

OFFICIAL

As discussed, this is what was sent to the reporter. This can be sent on to Clause 6(1) if needed.

We'll also raise adding historical data to the dashboard.

Tom

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
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From: Dougherty, Tom (PIRSA)

Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 12:40 PM

To: Clause 6(1) @abc.net.au; Clause 6(1); DG-NewsOnlineSA@abc.net.au

Cc: PIRSA:Media

Subject: PIRSA Response - Boatswain Point and Robe mortalities (ABC)

Hi Clause 6(1)

Please see the below.

Statement attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

The information provided to the ABC on 27 March 2025 was correct.

As noted in the summary attached provided by a Senior Biosecurity Officer on 24 March 2025, water samples collected from Boatswain Point on 20 March 2025 indicated nothing of concern that would relate to the fish mortalities and no karenia mikimotoi was detected.

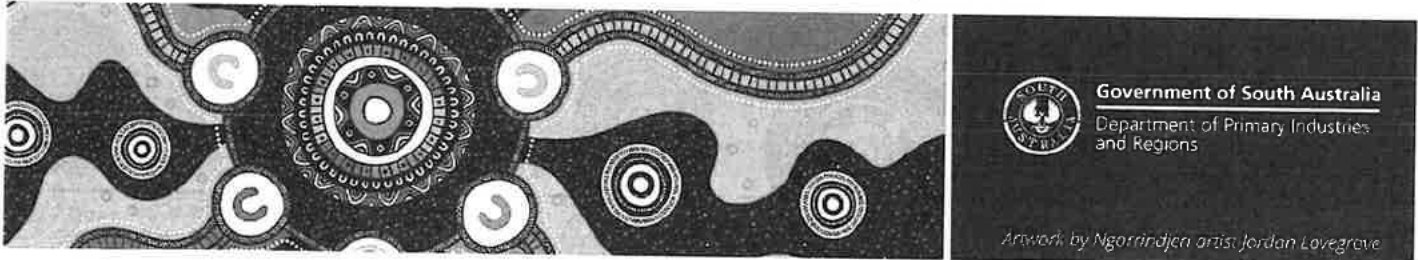
The count of 140,000 cells per litre on 24 March 2025 in fact aligns to a detection at Victor Harbor, not Boatswain Point.

The table will be amended to reflect this fact.

Regards

Tom

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Media Inbox: PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)>@abc.net.au
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 2:26 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)>@abc.net.au; DG-News Online SA <[DG-](#)

NewsOnlineSA@abc.net.au>

Subject: ABC enquiry

Hey team,

We are working on a story for ABC News about *karenia mikimotoi* detection along the SA coast, including the South East.

In an email to the ABC sent on March 27 (see below), a PIRSA spokesperson stated that “*water testing near Robe did not detect any Karenia mikimotoi*” and that there was “*not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East*”.

That statement followed an ABC story recording the concerns of a local fisher who had noticed distressed marine animals near Boatswain Point. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-21/boatswain-point-water-quality-concerns-fisher-livelihood-at-risk/105077318>

According to newly-released data, mikimotoi was in fact detected in a sample taken several days prior. The data shows a mikimotoi reading of 140,000 parts per litre at Boatswain Point – in the Robe area – on March 24. (That level, we have been advised, is equivalent to what is occurring along Adelaide metro coasts at the moment).

- Why was the information provided to the ABC not corrected? Why was it not made public, or passed onto locals, at the time?
- Was the public record ever corrected?
- Were fishers in the area who had raised concerns over dead fish notified of the detection? When did that occur?
- In June, PIRSA revealed it had detected elevated chlorophyll-a levels along a stretch of the South East coast – was this the first time PIRSA had acknowledged the presence of the bloom in the region?
- How does the department respond to claims that local fishers, who had noticed a large downturn in their catch, have effectively been “gaslit” by authorities who left them in the lurch?

My deadline for a response is 5pm and my number is Clause 6(1).

Please “reply all” to ensure my colleagues can access the response.

Thanks and kind regards,

Clause 6(1)

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@abc.net.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Test results from Robe water

OFFICIAL

Hi **Clause 6(1)**

Please see the response below attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

*Results from water testing near Robe did not detect any *Karenia mikimotoi*, which was determined as the cause of the algal bloom on Fleurieu Peninsula.*

At this stage, there is not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East.

PIRSA would like to remind people that if they notice something unusual involving dead or dying fish along any waterways or the coast to call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

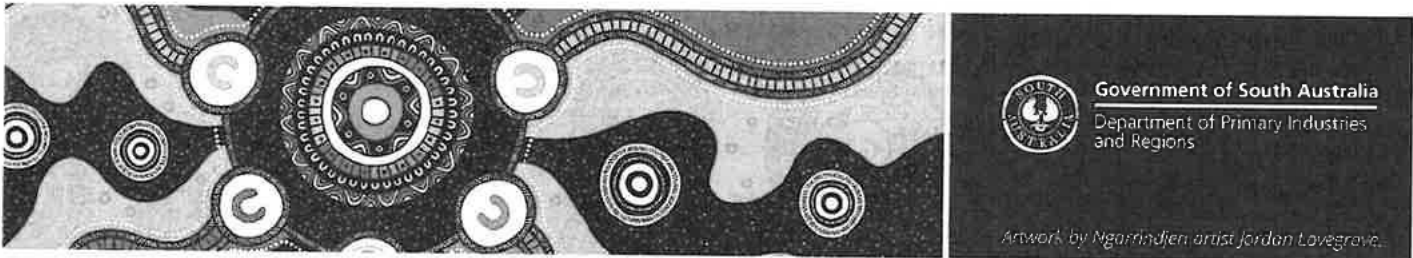
Kind regards,

Rebecca Opie | Senior Media Adviser

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

T: +61 8429 2456 | M: **Clause 6(1)** | E: rebecca.opie@sa.gov.au

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Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)

From: PIRSA:Media
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 10:13 PM
To: PIRSA:Media; Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA); O'Brien, Mat (PIRSA); Snelling, Molly (PIRSA); Opie, Rebecca (DPC)
Cc: Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA); Begg, Gavin (PIRSA); Collins, Jo (PIRSA); Cornish, Georgie (PIRSA); Robinson, Rob (PIRSA); Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI); Sutton, Tim (PIRSA); Barclay, Ann (PIRSA); Rodrigues, Sam (PIRSA); PIRSA:Media
Subject: Media summary, Thursday 28 August
Attachments: Out of scope; Out of scope; Out of scope
Out of scope.pdf

OFFICIAL

Media Summary: Out of scope
Out of scope Algal bloom information campaign. Boatswain Point.

1. Out of scope
2. Out of scope

3. Out of scope



4. Out of scope



5. **TOPIC:** Botswain Point
DATE: Wednesday, 3 September at 2pm (TBC)
OUTLET: Hello SA
FORMAT: Pre-record face to camera TV interview
SPOKESPERSON: Mike Steer
STATUS: Arrangements to be confirmed

BACKGROUND:

PIRSA was contacted by ABC Radio Rural about reports on a *karenia mikimotoi* detection at Boatswain Point, near Robe. At the time of the detection in March PIRSA advice to media was that there was no detection at the site, however a subsequent report tabled to parliament did indicate karenia was present. A check of the data has revealed an incorrect data entry in the report. A clarifying statement has been provided to the ABC.

STATEMENT PROVIDED TO ABC

Attributable to a PIRSA spokesperson.

The information provided to the ABC on 27 March 2025 was correct.

As noted in the summary attached provided by a Senior Biosecurity Officer on 24 March 2025, water samples collected from Boatswain Point on 20 March 2025 indicated nothing of concern that would relate to the fish mortalities and no karenia mikimotoi was detected.

The count of 140,000 cells per litre on 24 March 2025 in fact aligns to a detection at Victor Harbor, not Boatswain Point.

The table will be amended to reflect this fact.

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.

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.

From: [Dougherty, Tom \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Spurling, Sarah \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [PIRSA:Media](#)
Subject: RE: QwN
Date: Friday, 19 September 2025 9:48:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah

At least from my records, it appears that when ABC enquired about data in the FOI regarding Botswain Point, that is what prompted us to double check all records and that one error was identified.

It's worth noting that we advised ABC on 20 March that there were no elevated levels of *Karenia* spp. at this location on this date, our responses to ABC at the time were always correct.

The only error was in one email from Clause 8(1) that was an internal email revealed under FOI and this error was not carried across to other records.

Here's the responses sent at the time.

Hopefully this helps?

Tom

TOPIC: Robe water testing results

DATE: Thursday, 27 March 2025

OUTLET/AGENCY: ABC South East

FORMAT: Response

SPOKESPERSON: PIRSA

APPROVALS: Giverny Rodgers, Nick Secomb, Georgie Cornish, MO

STATUS: Complete

ENQUIRY: Just checking back in to see if you had any further results from the testing of the Robe water collected last week?

RESPONSE: *Results from water testing near Robe did not detect any *Karenia mikimotoi*, which was determined as the cause of the algal bloom on Fleurieu Peninsula.*

At this stage, there is not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the South East. PIRSA would like to remind people that if they notice something unusual involving dead or dying fish along any waterways or the coast to call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

TOPIC: South East results

DATE: Thursday, 20 March 2025

OUTLET/AGENCY: ABC Regional Drive

FORMAT: Response

SPOKESPERSON: PIRSA

APPROVALS: Giverny Rodgers, Nick Secomb, Georgie Cornish, MO

STATUS: Complete

ENQUIRY: Hearing from our colleagues in Mt Gambier that PIRSA is heading to Robe to take water samples after concerns from a local fisherman re water temps and dead sealife.

STATEMENT: *Fisheries Officers from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) collected water samples and environmental measures from Boatswain Point, near Robe after receiving reports of dead fish and water discolouration in the area. Results show the water temperature is higher than the average for this time of year, but generally all environmental parameters were within the normal range. No dead fish were observed during site inspections.*

There is currently not sufficient evidence that the fish kill event on Fleurieu Peninsula has extended to the southeast. PIRSA will continue to monitor and await the results of water testing, which are expected early next week.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: **Clause 6(1)** | E: tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | Media Inbox: PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA)
Sent: Friday, 19 September 2025 9:35 AM
To: Dougherty, Tom (PIRSA)
Subject: FW: QwN

OFFICIAL

FYI

From: Crowther, Anne-Marie (PIRSA) <Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 September 2025 8:04 AM
To: Spurling, Sarah (PIRSA) <Sarah.Spurling@sa.gov.au>
Subject: QwN

OFFICIAL

Hi Sarah

These are the ones I messaged you about yesterday.

Thanks

Anne-Marie Crowther | Executive Assistant Biosecurity |

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia

Level 21, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

T: 08 8429 3507 | M: **Clause 6(1)** | E: Anne-Marie.Crowther2@sa.gov.au

