



Chair Report Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)

16 July 2025

Dear Stakeholders,

On 2 July 2025, the **Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)** reconvened with the independent consultants to discuss the implementation of benchmarking activities and continue progressing the recommendations identified by the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel (ICRRP). This meeting addressed the following key topics:

- Benchmarking Activities
- Final CRIS for 2025-26
- Benchmarking Roadmap
- Industry Discussion Paper.

Benchmarking Activities

The CRIC discussed the implementation of the proposed benchmarking surveys, and the potential benefits to be gained from industry's insights. Various approaches were explored to ensure the survey would effectively capture relevant data and successful engagement with industry. This included targeting key fishing locations such as Port Lincoln. Key points included the scope of the survey, distribution methods, and the best approach to encourage fisher participation.

Stock assessments, harvest strategies and ERA reports are key documents that will contribute to the benchmarking survey, and PIRSA will meet with the benchmarking consultants to build on any required information.

Each fishery will be considered individually, and this will need to be done through a consistent framework, built around the current science and compliance programs and potential improvements.

The CRIC agreed that the benchmarking survey will be sent out to all licence holders including those without sector representation.

Final Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) for 2025-26

On 16 May 2025, the draft CRIS was sent out to all sector representatives and lease and licence holders without representation, for a two week consultation period to provide feedback. There was limited industry feedback on the draft CRIS, with some sectors raising the lack of FTEs and days per program, which have not been included in the new single PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture CRIS. Previously, industry has used the comparison of days allocated to compliance programs as a metric for comparing the level of effort allocated.

As previously discussed by the CRIC, the intention of the revised single CRIS is to lift the conversation and reflect a similar level of detail to that provided in the AFMA CRIS. It was noted the previous CRIS (2024-25) document provides a baseline which can be compared to the CRIS for

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2025-26, as the programs have been rolled over with government indexation applied, unless there were previous discussions about changes to programs.

The annual lease and licence fees have now been finalised and applied for the 2025-26 financial year.

Benchmarking Roadmap

The CRIC discussed the Benchmarking Roadmap and noted that the activities of the CRIC have evolved, and timings for activities and deliverables were as expected. As such there is no specific Roadmap which has been replaced by the activities and updates of the CRIC.

Reference was made to the initial Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel recommendations to guide the deliverables of the CRIC, along with the initial Terms of Reference.

It was recognised that the work completed so far has been well received, and the upcoming objectives have evolved to adapt to the growing requirements and relevance of the CRIC.

Industry Discussion Paper

Industry has finalised a draft cost recovery principles document, which has been developed by SISA from an industry (fisheries) perspective, including a reference to the 1995 Hall, Fisheries Management Paper #7. The document sets guidelines that clarify the roles and responsibilities between Industry and Government, specifically relating to cost recovery principles.

The CRIC discussed if and possibly how the document will inform the current review process. Once finalised and endorsed by both industry and Government, the principles can be included in the annual CRIS or as a stand-alone document.

Next Steps

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

1. PIRSA to send out final 2025-26 CRIS
2. PIRSA to review the Cost Recovery Principles Discussion Paper developed by industry
3. The CRIC Chair will brief industry at 3 July 2025 PIRSA-EO meeting, and seek industry feedback regarding the possibility of the consultants to organise face-to-face meetings in Port Lincoln.

The eighth CRIC meeting explored the implementation of the benchmarking activities for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and Compliance programs, including timeframes for activities and deliverables were as projected. The CRIC will continue to brief the Minister, industry and the broader public through existing methods, including providing periodic updates through the Chair Reports, PIRSA notices to industry, and through the PIRSA website.

The next CRIC meeting is scheduled for **14 August 2025**, and monthly meetings with the benchmarking consultants will continue.

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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