



**Shire of Derby /
West Kimberley**

SHIRE OF DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

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1 May 2015

Committee Secretariat
Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/ Madam

Inquiry into Opportunities for Expanding the Aquaculture Industry in Northern Australia

The Shire of Derby West Kimberley is the operator of the Derby Port, which services the Kimberley Aquaculture Zone. We thank the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia for the opportunity to provide a submission.

As a logistics provider the Shire has first-hand experience with supporting aquaculture companies, especially through the start-up phase. Feedback from companies seeking to negotiate leases and access to our port facilities highlight the:

- critical nature of access to reliable port berthing to support 'just in time' strategies for coordinating any road transport to the port operations;
- importance of warehousing in relation to supplies such as feed;
- planning required for expansion of land operations in relation to processing and ancillary services;
- difficulty of start-up aquaculture to compete for landside port real estate with oil and gas providers;
- value of lay down area to allow construction of large structures which are difficult to build on site in remote areas.

Innovation in farming techniques such as floating fish enclosures are often limited by logistical problems. A good example is the lack of available space traditionally at ports to allow the construction below close enough to water to be easily towed to site. The Shire made available its public car park to assist a local operation as there were no other options available.



In relation to planning for aquaculture zones and licensed areas, the Shire is mindful of the logistics cost drivers that have a significant impact on viability. Therefore the operation of any licensing system needs to have regard for the critical mass of the operations required for this viability, and also risk management in relation to market saturation of smaller operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. We would look forward to expanding on any aspect of the submission if required.

Regards

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Stephen Gash
Chief Executive Officer