



Pacific Reef Fisheries
(Australia) Pty Ltd
ABN 13 084 456 931

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

To whom it may concern

Re: Pacific Reef Fisheries (Australia) Pty Ltd: Submission to the Inquiry into Opportunities for Expanding the Aquaculture Industry in Northern Australia

Pacific Reef Fisheries (Australia) Pty Ltd (PRF) is a large fully integrated prawn and fish farming operation located in the Burdekin and Bowen regions of North Queensland. PRF has been operating for 17 years at its 100ha Ayr site, and is the proponent of the 259ha Guthalungra aquaculture farm between Ayr and Bowen. The company currently produces in excess of 1000T of quality seafood worth approximately \$20 million per annum, and will grow in excess of 3500T worth around \$70 million at full development.

PRF currently supplies most of its production to the Coles supermarket chain. Demand for Australian produced prawns from domestic markets currently well outstrips supply. However, PRF is AQIS export approved and high value export markets will be targeted as production volumes increase.

The licencing process for the Guthalungra proposal has been long and complicated. Legislation and administrative processes have changed during this time and the process has been replicated with various federal and state departments. The proposal is still not fully licenced, however it is anticipated we will complete the approval process within the next 6-12 months.

It will be critical for future investment to occur that this process be rationalised and streamlined. The issues we have had with obtaining approval for the Guthalungra facility have been widely publicised and this has deterred potential new investors.



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The Australian Prawn farming industry is a world leader in prawn production and management. It is one of our core strengths that we have developed our industry with minimal environmental impact. In fact environmental sustainability is a feature of our industry that sets our product apart from imported and wild caught product. PRF have been very proactive in developing new technologies for reducing nutrient loads and these world-first technologies will be fully implemented in the Guthalungra development.

The North Queensland coastline has numerous features that make it ideal for further aquaculture development. These include:

- Climate (extremely important from a biological viewpoint)
- Large regional coastal areas suitable for development
- Existing transport infrastructure
- Existing power infrastructure
- Proximity to markets
- Proximity to labour supply

There is an urgent need to identify suitable zones for aquaculture development in Northern Australia. This development can occur adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park without environmental impact. It will be critical that the criteria for zone identification be identified appropriately- this should not just include environmental or regulatory factors, but also biological and economic factors.

Aquaculture has enormous potential in Australia, and the existing leading producers are at an exciting phase in industry development. In order to fully capitalise on this it will be important for both federal and state governments to address the issues that have hindered this until now.

Yours faithfully

JOHN MOLONEY
General Manager
Pacific Reef Fisheries (Australia) Pty Ltd