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Note: No written submissions were received during the preparation of the EIS. (The Coordinator General's Office incorporated the issues raised during the public notification of the project Terms of Reference into a final Terms of Reference. Therefore these submissions will not be reproduced here).

Section 1 Media Release
1a Pacific Reef on Track for Guthalungra Prawn Farm

Media release 1 October 2002

Pacific Reef on Track for Guthalungra Prawn Farm

Pacific Reef Fisheries representatives will be manning a stand at the Barrier reef college of TAFE on Friday and Saturday the 11th and 12th of October. It is part of the public consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the 250 hectare prawn farm proposal at Guthalungra.

"The assessment process is by no means over and approval has not yet been granted but the company is very encouraged by the study so far" said Mr Smyth, General Manager of Pacific Reef, he is well aware that the Guthalungra farm "will undergo the strictest assessment process in the world. It has been designated a project of State significance, as a result around 10 permits will be required from a process involving no fewer than 15 agencies".

One of Mr Smyth's major concerns to date has been the inability of the various of Government agencies to work together, particularly the Federal and State environment agencies. "Despite prawn farming having been an industry in Queensland since the early eighties, the state and federal Government agencies will be the first to admit that there is a lack of consistency and coordination between agencies involved in the environmental approvals process." Mr Smyth the General Manager of Pacific reef is also President of the Queensland Aquaculture Industry Federation. He has made representation to Federal Environment Minister Kemp and has been encouraged by the high level directive "to get the problems sorted out".

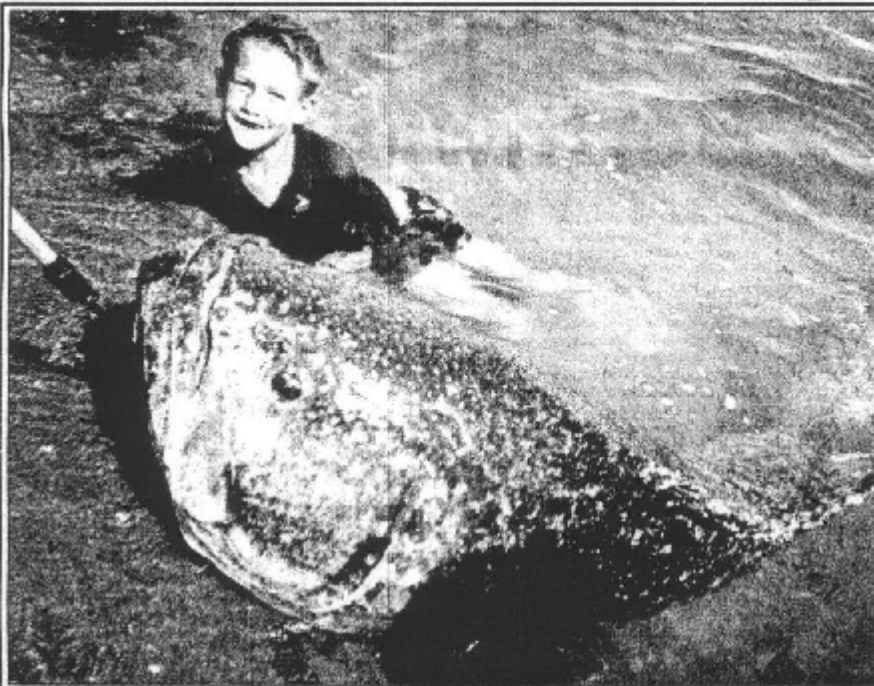
As a result it is hoped that Environment Australia, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Environment Protection Agency will use a similar assessment process and work together to ensure common licence conditions are issued, and importantly major investors in the industry are given clear guidelines. "The Guthalungra proposal seems to be really testing the agencies ability to work together," Mr Smyth said.

Also, the Guthalungra proposal will be cutting new ground for other reasons, most of the existing prawn farms in Queensland are located adjacent to estuaries or tidal creeks, however the Guthalungra operation will be located inland on old grazing country. Although the Pacific Reef property lies alongside the Elliott River there is no intention to take water from or discharge water to the Elliot River, "in fact we do not intend to develop any of our property adjacent to the Elliott River for prawn farming. Oceanic water will be taken by buried pipe from around half a kilometre offshore in Abbot Bay, roughly three kilometres north of the Elliott. Water will be reused on the farm, and after extensive filtration and biological treatment, it will be discharged near to the intake point offshore".

Kevin Smyth is keen for anyone with an interest in the proposal to visit the stand at the Bowen campus of TAFE this weekend, "it will be an opportunity for locals to find out more about the proposal, about the business of farming prawns and about Pacific Reef before the project enters the formal public notification phase."

Contact: Carl Young 040 777 1506, carl.y@lar.net.au

Prawn farm will create 150 jobs



Sean Hickey, 7, got into the water, above, when the big fish was brought to shore to give some idea of the size of his brother Patrick's catch.

What a whopper

PATRICK Hickey Junior, 14, had no idea what he had hooked when he went fishing off the mouth of the Elliot River last Saturday.

He knew what was on the end of his 80lb hand line, baited with a mullet, was big.

But it took an hour to bring the catch to the surface to see just how big it was.

What he had caught was a giant groper.

It was estimated to be around 150kg and all of two metres long.

It was too big for the party's boat, so the logical thing was to release the big fellow.

When the gaff was taken from the fish, it fought vigorously to regain deeper water.

Then, with a defiant flick of its tail, it was off out to sea again.

More great fishing catches - Page 7

\$35m project at Guthalung the biggest

By CHARLES CERULLI

A \$35 million prawn farm to be built at Guthalunga will create up to 150 jobs for the Bowen State, including permanent ones.

An environmental impact study is now under way, with construction to begin next year after the wet season.

It is to be built by Pacific Fisheries, which already has a hectare operation at Ayr, with about permanent and 25 casual jobs, producing about 450 tonnes of tiger prawns a year.

Company general manager K Smyth said the Guthalunga project would cover a 250-hectare site would be built in stages over 10 years.

It is expected to produce 1500 tonnes of prawns a year, for both Australian markets and export.

"It will be the largest aquaculture project on the Australian mainland," he said.

"There will be between 130-150 permanent and casual," Mr Smyth said.

The potential for Bowen people employed is "very, very good".

"The prawn farm industry is labour intensive, and will continue," he said.

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Prawn farm to create 150 jobs

From Page 1

"And not only will there be jobs for Bowen, but over time there will be opportunities for young people to take a career path in the industry."

"They could start out as a pond technician and work through the system."

Mr Smyth said he had had informal talks with TAFE College officials about possible courses.

He also said the company was mindful of the strict environmental guidelines that had to be followed.

Everything now had to be co-ordinated under the State Development Department, who "pull everything together".

But to get the project going, the company had had to deal with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Authority, Environment Australia, the State Government Environment Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industry, among others.

Mr Smyth said a "summit" on streamlining procedures to set up prawn farms, initiated by Bowen Shire Council and held in Bowen last year, had been helpful.



Kevin Smyth



Bowen Mayor Mike Brunker said Mr Smyth had briefed Bowen Collinsville Enterprise and local businessmen on the Guthalungra project.

"It sounds very exciting," he said.

"And once you get three or four of those aquaculture sites up, you are replacing the jobs the shire lost when the meatworks closed."

About 480 jobs were lost when the meatworks closed its operations at Merinda in 1998.

Mr Brunker said Pacific Reef Fisheries was working with the regulators on the environmental issues.

"It's part of our policy to encourage developers who want to do the right thing," he said.

Mr Smyth, who has been in the industry for 11 years and is also president of the Aquaculture Council of Queensland, said the industry could produce a "hell of a lot of prawns".

"At the end of the day we are

replacing the imported prawns," he said.

And the Australian aquaculture industry had a record it could be justifiably proud of.

"It was the first in the world to introduce a code of practice for prawn farming," Mr Smyth said.

He said the man behind Pacific Reef Fisheries was Melbourne businessman Nick Mitris, who was involved in gambling industry equipment supplies.

The world's strictest tests for prawn farm

230-hectare prawn farm proposal at Guthalungra would be subject to "the strictest assessment process in the world", has been claimed.

Pacific Reef Fisheries general manager Kevin Smyth said the \$35 million proposal had been designated a project of state significance.

"As a result, around 10 permits will be required from a process involving no fewer than 15 agencies," he said.

The company moves into another part of public consultation process next week as it prepares an environmental impact statement for the project.

Pacific Reef Fisheries representatives will be manning a stand at the Barrier Reef APE College in Bowen next Friday and Saturday.

"The assessment process is by no means over and approval has not yet been granted as the company is very encouraged by the way so far," Mr Smyth said.

However, of major concern so far had been the inability of the various of government agencies to work together, particularly the federal and state environment agencies.

"Despite prawn farming having been an industry in Queensland since the early eighties, the state and federal government agencies will be the first to admit that there is a lack of consistency and co-ordination between agencies involved in the environmental approvals process," Mr Smyth, who is also president of the Queensland Aquaculture Industry Federation, said.

He said he had made representations to Federal Environment Minister Rod Kemp and had been encouraged by a high-level directive "to get the problems sorted out".

Mr Smyth said it was hoped that Environment Australia, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency would use similar assessment



Kevin Smyth and farmed prawns.

processes and work together to ensure common licence conditions were issued.

It was important major investors in the industry were given clear guidelines.

"The Guthalungra proposal seems to be really testing the agencies' ability to work together," Mr Smyth said.

He is keen for anyone with an interest in the proposal to visit the stand at the Bowen TAFE campus.

"It will be an opportunity for locals to find out more about the proposal, about the business of farming prawns and about Pacific Reef before the project enters the formal public notification phase," he said.

The stand will be open in Room AG 18 at the TAFE from 11am-5pm next Friday and Saturday.

Elliot River water not part of the operation

THE Guthalungra prawn farm proposal will be cutting new ground.

While most existing prawn farms in Queensland are located adjacent to estuaries or tidal creeks, the Guthalungra operation will be located inland on old grazing country.

Although the Pacific Reef property lies alongside the Elliot River, it is not intended to take water from or discharge water into the river.

"In fact, we do not intend to develop any of our property adjacent to the Elliot River for prawn farming," Pacific Reef Fisheries general manager Kevin Smyth said.

"Oceanic water will be taken by buried pipe from around 1/2km offshore in Albot Bay, roughly 5km north of the Elliot.

"Water will be reused on the farm, and after extensive filtration and biological treatment, it will be discharged near to the intake point offshore."

Section 2 Media Coverage
2c Positive Response to Guthalungra Project
Bowen Independent Wednesday October 16 2002



Positive response to Guthalungra project

ABOUT 26 people took the opportunity to look at and discuss proposals for a 250-hectare prawn farm planned for Guthalungra.

Pacific Reef Fisheries held an open day at the Barrier Reef TAFE College last Friday and Saturday as it moved into another part of its public consultation process and environmental impact study.

Pictured above is PRF's general manager Kevin Smyth with grazier Harold Watts discussing aspects of the \$35 million project.

Mr Smyth said quite a cross-section took the trouble to drop in, including hut owners in the area, conservationists, Burdekin MP Steve Rodgers, neighbours of the project at Guthalungra and a vegetable grower.

"Generally, it was a positive reaction from the people," he said.

"The hut owners were particularly pleased we were not drawing water from or discharging water into the Elliot. Nobody came in there to say we oppose you."

Mr Smyth said generally people were happy about the transparency of the details of the project.

The conservationists said from what they saw on display they supported the project as it could take pressure off the "fish in the wild".

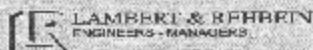
Mr Smyth said the people who attended were also invited to visit the company's existing facility at Alva Beach in Ayr.

The Bowen comments would now be sent to the Department of State Development and embodied in the documentation of the project's Environment Impact Study.

"We would expect to have the EIS out for public comment about the end of November," Mr Smyth said.

After that phase, State Development will ask the company to address any concerns.

**Section 3 Advertisements
3a Terms of Reference
Advertisement Australian March 6 2002**



**Draft Terms of Reference - Environmental Impact Statement for
an Aquaculture Project at Guthalungra for Pacific Reef Fisheries**

Invitation for Public Comment

Pacific Reef Fisheries (Bowen) Pty Ltd is proposing to develop a prawn aquaculture facility on an 800 ha site adjacent to the Elliot River near Guthalungra, approximately 40 km north of Bowen, North Queensland.

The proposal includes up to 300 ha of grow-out ponds, a seafood processing facility and support infrastructure. Production is estimated to be 1750 tonnes of penaeid prawns per annum with turnover of \$32 million by 2005.

The Coordinator-General has declared the Guthalungra Aquaculture Project to be a significant project for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required pursuant to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act).

Under the provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth) (EPBC Act), the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage has decided that the action is a controlled action. The protected matters (ie those of national environmental significance) for this project have been identified as World Heritage properties; listed threatened species and communities; listed migratory species; and the marine environment.

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage has decided under Part 8 of the EPBC Act that the assessment is to be by an accredited assessment process. The accredited process is an EIS under Part 4 of the SDPWO Act and Part 5 of the SDPWO Regulation 1999.

The Department of State Development is coordinating the EIS for this project. The EIS for the project will address both State and Commonwealth matters. Preparation of the terms of reference is the first stage of the assessment process.

Availability of the Draft Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference for the EIS and an initial advice statement about the project are available at: www.stateldevelopment.qld.gov.au or from the Department of State Development.

Comments on the draft Terms of Reference Invited

The Coordinator-General is inviting comments on the draft Terms of Reference for the EIS. Written comments will be accepted until the close of business on 20 April 2002 and must be addressed to:

The Coordinator-General
Re: Guthalungra Aquaculture Project
PO Box 168
BRISBANE ALBERT STREET QLD 4002
Fax: (07) 3224 5289 Tel: (07) 3225 1250
e-mail: guthalungra.aquaculture@sd.qld.gov.au

Copies of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent.

**Section 3 Advertisements
3b Notification of Public Forum
Advertisement Bowen Independent 4 October 2002**

**Notice of Public Consultation Forum
Pacific Reef Fisheries
Guthalungra Prawn Farm Proposal
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, Bowen Campus
Room AG.18
11 and 12 October 02
11 AM to 5 PM**

Staff and Consultants involved in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for a prawn farm development at Guthalungra will be manning a display and available to discuss the proposal with interested individuals. For more information please call Carl Young on 0407 771506.

Section 4 Communication
4a Sample Letters of Invitation to Public Forum Invitation



seafood farming services

35 Market Street, Toowong Q 4066

Ph: 07 3846 3351 Fax: 07 3217 7785

carlyoung@ozemail.com.au

Invitation

Pacific Reef Fisheries

Guthalungra Prawn Farm Proposal

Public Consultation Forum

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, Bowen Campus

Room AG.18

11 and 12 October 02

11 AM to 5 PM

Dear Stakeholder

Pacific Reef Fisheries is undertaking an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to support an application to build a 250 hectare prawn farm at Guthalungra 40 km North of Bowen. In order to fully inform the local community of the proposal and the assessment process, and to obtain as much feedback as possible during the preparation of the EIS, Pacific Reef will be manning a public display during October.

You, and any representatives of your organisation, are invited to visit the stand. The stand will be manned by Pacific Reef staff and consultants involved in the Environmental Impact Study. They will be available to discuss any aspect of the proposal and obtain your input.

I will be in attendance personally over the two day period and look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

Carl Young
Partner
Seafood Farming Services



seafood farming services

Address

Dear Mr...

RE: Guthalungra Prawn Farm Proposal

On behalf of Pacific Reef Fisheries please find enclosed a final copy of the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Guthalungra Prawn Farm Development. The EIS process is progressing well and at this stage we are working towards completion of the draft document by the end of October 02. The draft EIS will then be released for public consultation for one month prior to assessment by Government agencies.

I am particularly keen to discuss the proposal with near neighbours and adjacent landowners in more detail as the plans for the design and layout of the farm and infrastructure become finalised. I intend to be in Guthalungra during the second week of September (09 –13 September) and will have some detailed design information for you to look at. Please let me know if you or your representative is interested in meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail at this time.

Yours Sincerely

Carl Young
Partner

Section 5 Information Package
5a Guthalungra Prawn Farm Proposal Quick Facts File 10 October 2002



seafood farming services

35 Market Street, Toowong Q 4066
Ph: 07 3846 3351 Fax: 07 3217 7785
carlyoung@ozemail.com.au

Guthalungra Prawn Farm Proposal Quick Facts File 10 October 2002

The Company

Pacific Reef Fisheries (Bowen) is a fully incorporated business with a sole owner and single Director, Nick Mitris. Nick's Son in law George and daughter Maria are heavily involved in the Guthalungra project. Pacific Reef has an existing 68 ha prawn operation at Alva Beach near Ayr. Mr Kevin Smyth is the General Manager; he has overall responsibility for the Guthalungra project.

The Application Process:

The Project has been declared a project of state significance pursuant to section 26 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisations Act 1971*.

The project has triggered the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and therefore requires Federal Approval. This is because the proposal is located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Pacific Reef is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Federal environment agency, Environment Australia, has accredited the State's Coordinator Generals Office to manage the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Pacific reef are now preparing the Environmental Impact Statement. This study is not complete. Public Consultation is part of this process.

Once the EIS has been completed by Pacific Reef it will be submitted to the Coordinator General, and then released for public notification. Individuals are able to make formal submissions on the project. These submissions are also recognised as submissions under the state planning process.

Pacific Reef then has the opportunity to prepare a response to submissions in the form of a supplementary report. The Coordinator Generals Office then prepares an assessment report. If the EIS is approved, the application will enter the next phase of the approvals process, and state and federal permits issued.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

There have been several contractors involved in the preparation of the EIS. The primary consultants to the project include Seafood Farming Services (coordination), Lambert and Rehbein (environmental), and Sinclair Knight Merz (Engineering & Design).

The Location

Guthalungra is located 40 km North of Bowen about 15 km south of Gumlu. The ponds will be built on land owned by Pacific reef and purchased for the purpose of prawn farming 3 years ago. The country was previously used for grazing.

The Prawn Farm

The proposal is for 250 hectares of production ponds. These ponds will be capable of producing around six tonnes of black tiger prawns per year. Black tiger prawns (*Penaeus monodon*) are native to Queensland waters, they will be the major species farmed. Other local species of prawn and fish will be trialled.

Prawns are fed a manufactured diet made of fishmeal and other ingredients to provide protein, fat and carbohydrate in the correct nutritional profile for the prawn. The amount of protein in the diet is approximately 35%. Part of this is fishmeal.

The prawn ponds are stocked with juvenile prawns called post larvae. The post larvae are all produced in Queensland from local parent stock.

There are no antibiotics or drugs used in the grow-out production of prawns. There will not be a hatchery located on the Guthalungra site. There will be extensive processing and freezing facilities.

Prawn farms install aerators to maintain adequate oxygen levels in the prawn ponds. Prawn ponds are often green in colour; this is because of the algae present in the water column. Prawn farmers strive to maintain a health algal bloom in the pond in order to shade the prawns during growth.

Water Supply

Water will be taken from Abbott Bay via a buried pipeline to the farm. The pipeline will be buried within existing road reserves and/or within an easement on adjacent property. A pump facility will be located behind the beach dune system within the road reserve or esplanade.

Water will be discharged along pipes located next to the intake pipe. The Intake and discharge location will be in close proximity; around three kilometres north of the Elliott River and half a kilometre offshore.

Water Treatment

Water leaving prawn production ponds often has increased levels of nutrients. This mainly comes about because uneaten prawn food breaks up and dissolves, the nutrients are then either suspended in the water where they may be consumed by algae or deposited in the middle of the pond.

In order to reduce the level of nutrients leaving the farm, and therefore going back into the ocean, discharge water will be treated and reused on the farm. Treatment may include a combination of settlement ponds to remove solids (e.g. clay and soil), filtration to remove finer particles, and biological treatment such as fish to remove algae.

Discharge from prawn farms is different to waste from sewage treatment. The concentration of nutrients in water leaving a prawn farm is much much lower. There is very little organic material and no human health pathogens.

Jobs

Prawn farming is a labour hungry activity. On average one employee is required for every two hectares of production. It is envisaged that around 130 staff will be employed at Guthalungra. Almost 100 of these will be permanent positions. Prawn farming is an activity that requires a high level of skills. Pacific Reef is committed to introducing a comprehensive training program that could result in more than 75% of the jobs created at Guthalungra being filled by existing shire residents.

Cultural Heritage

The Gudjuda Reference group and the Giru Dala Council of elders have been involved in the EIS and a cultural heritage survey has been undertaken.

Social Impacts

Like many rural communities Bowen Shire has been experiencing a decline in population as traditional rural industries struggle to compete in increasingly competitive and fickle global markets. Aquaculture has been recognised as having potential for substantial growth in the Bowen region. Many of the flow on effects of an aquaculture operation are felt in the region in which the activity takes place. The ratio of jobs created for each aquaculture job is high compared to traditional rural industries. Queensland and South Australian Government data would suggest that around two and half jobs are created for every single job on-farm. It is likely that most of these jobs will be generated in the region.