

Our reference: 1810-7611 SRA  
Council reference: MCU2760/2018  
Applicant reference: L3 Vixes Rd- Fish Farm Expansion

16 October 2018

Daintree Saltwater Barramundi Fish Farm Pty Ltd  
c/-EcoSustainAbility  
PO Box 230  
Yorkeys Knob QLD 4878  
gcecosustainability@gmail.com

Attention: Guy Chester

Dear Sir/Madam

### Information request

(Given under section 12 of the Development Assessment Rules)

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning has carried out a further review of your development application for the following premises.

### Location details

Street address:	Lot 3 Vixies Road, Wonga Beach
Real property description:	Lot 3 on SP292103
Local government area:	Douglas Shire Council

The proposed development is for a material change of use for aquaculture and Environmentally Relevant Activity for aquaculture to facilitate a farm expansion at Daintree Saltwater Barramundi located in Wonga Beach.

The department has determined that the following additional information is needed to assess the application:

Item	Information requested
<b>Schedule 10, Part 6, Division 1, Subdivision 3, Table 1, Item 1 – Aquaculture (Planning Regulation 2017)</b>	
<b>State Development Assessment Provisions v2.3, State code 17: Aquaculture</b>	
1.	The development application has not provided sufficient information to finalise an assessment against State code 17: Aquaculture, in particular:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PO1 - Given that two settlement ponds and two drains will be removed and there will be an increase in waste and nutrient loads due to increased production, it is unclear how the settlement and drainage systems in the new proposal will cope.</li> </ul> <p>It is also unknown if the additional wastewater is proposed to be managed with a “majority recirculation system”. Further information about the recirculation system and treatment wetland is required to assess the proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PO9 - The application refers to disease management contingency plans, however these are not provided. These documents are required to assess the application against PO9.</li> <li>• PO13 - Insufficient detail has been provided on how screening of pipe work is to occur and the sizes of mesh to be used.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Information requested</u></b></p> <p>Provide an aquaculture operations management plan that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. details of the proposed aquaculture operating procedures including; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. production ponds;</li> <li>ii. water supply system;</li> <li>iii. water storage;</li> <li>iv. water distribution system;</li> <li>v. drainage;</li> <li>vi. water treatment;</li> <li>vii. discharge system; and</li> <li>viii. storage of feed etc.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. details of escape prevention practices to avoid or minimise escape of aquaculture resources. This may include, but is not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. fencing of ponds (a requirement for crayfish ponds);</li> <li>ii. screening of outlet and intake pipes;</li> <li>iii. enclosed facilities;</li> <li>iv. treatment of water before discharging it;</li> <li>v. maintaining a freeboard on pond and tank walls;</li> <li>vi. predator exclusion systems;</li> <li>vii. daily monitoring of equipment; and</li> <li>viii. surface water runoff management.</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. details of disease prevention and management practices to avoid or minimise disease impact on the aquaculture development. This should include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. how you intend to monitor for disease;</li> <li>ii. what quarantine practices are proposed for new stock introduced to the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Item	Information requested
	<p>farm;</p> <p>iii. veterinary monitoring of stock; and</p> <p>iv. the control measures to be implemented both on a day-to-day basis and in the event of a natural disaster.</p>
<p><b>Schedule 10, Part 6, Division 3, Subdivision 3, Table 2, Item 1 – Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants (Planning Regulation 2017)</b></p> <p><b>State Development Assessment Provisions v2.3, State code 11: Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants</b></p>	
2.	<p>The development application has not provided sufficient information to finalise an assessment against State code 11: Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants.</p> <p>Marine plants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any plant (a tidal plant (including marine algae) that usually grows on or adjacent to tidal lands whether it is living, dead, standing or fallen; or</li> <li>• any plant material on tidal land (up to the level of Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)).</li> </ul> <p>Plants such as mangroves, <b>mangrove fern</b>, saltcouch or samphire species are considered marine plants regardless of whether or not they are above or below the level of HAT.</p> <p>Marine plants do not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a plant that is prohibited matter or restricted matter under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>; or</li> <li>• a plant that is controlled biosecurity matter or regulated biosecurity matter under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Mangrove Fern (<i>Acrostichum speciosum</i>) has been identified in settlement pond 2 but has not been recognised as a marine plant when referring to necessary marine plant disturbance in the development application.</p> <p><b><u>Information requested</u></b></p> <p>Provide a plan showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the total amount and type of marine plants that will be disturbed, identifying portion of permanent and/or temporary disturbance (in square meters or hectares), and</li> <li>• the location of the marine plants to be disturbed in relation to the development works.</li> </ul> <p>The department's <a href="#">DA Forms guide: Relevant plans</a> provides guidance to applicants when submitting relevant plans with a development application.</p>
3.	<p>Opening an old bund to restore tidal connectivity is offered within supporting information to mitigate impacts to marine plants. No detailed information is provided on how the bund is to be removed and tidal fish habitats restored. If this is proposed as a mitigation strategy additional information is requested.</p> <p><b><u>Information requested</u></b></p> <p>a. Provide a response to State code 11, PO29 and PO30 and include detailed information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How the restoration is to occur, and</li> <li>ii. What total benefits to fisheries productivity will result.</li> </ol> <p>b. Include any marine plant disturbance required to gain access to the bund in the total area of marine plant disturbance (refer item 3.1).</p>

The due date for providing the requested information is **16 January 2019**. Please complete the relevant task in MyDAS2 to advise the department of your response to this information request.

As the department's assessment of your application will be based on the information provided, it is recommended that you provide all of the information requested. If you do not provide a response before the above due date (or a further agreed period), it will be taken as if you have decided not to respond to the information request and the department will continue with its assessment of your application without the information requested.

As the department is a referral agency, a copy of this information request will be provided to the assessment manager in accordance with section 12.3 of the DA Rules.

For further information please contact Joanne Manson, Principal Planning Officer, SARA Far North QLD on 40373228 or via email CairnsSARA@dsmip.qld.gov.au who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Nancarrow', written in a cursive style.

Brett Nancarrow  
Manager (Planning)

cc Douglas Shire Council, Jenny Elphinstone, enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au