

**APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE  
LICENCE AND LEASE**

**by**

**Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd**

**Abrolhos Islands WA**

**November 2019**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)  
APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND  
LEASE**

**Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd  
Abrolhos Islands WA**

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<b>File Ref</b>	L149/19
<b>Date of Application</b>	5 November 2019
<b>General Location</b>	Pelsaert Island Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
<b>Total Area of Proposed Site</b>	1.4 hectares
<b>Authorised Species</b>	various species of seaweed
<b>Proposed species</b>	green algae <i>Caulerpa lentillifera</i>
<b>Culture Method</b>	grow-out using longlines
<b>Other Sites (within 5 n mile)</b>	Abrolhos Island Oysters; Sea Urchin Pty Ltd; Pelsaert WA Pty Ltd, WTN Nominees Pty Ltd & Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd; West Australian Octopus Pty Ltd; Andrew Joseph & Tracey Lee Basile; Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd; and Peter and Karen Armstrong Bruce Cunningham
<b>Further Information</b>	Contact Clara Alvarez at DPIRD Aquaculture Branch on (08) 6551 4346 or <a href="mailto:clara.alvarez@dpird.wa.gov.au">clara.alvarez@dpird.wa.gov.au</a> .

# Information provided by the applicant relevant to an application for grant of an aquaculture licence and lease

Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd

November 2019

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## Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd (Wildblue Holdings) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

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## Background

On 2 October 2018, Wildblue Holdings was granted a Licence in the Arolhos Islands, which authorises the aquaculture of several macroalgae or seaweed species (macroalgae are large algae such as kelp, which often occur in dense beds attached to the seabed) at a site within the Pelsaert Island Group of the Arolhos Islands.

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## Proposal

Wildblue Holdings has made an application to vary its Licence to add a new site and to add the green algae species *Caulerpa lentillifera* to its Licence.

The proposed aquaculture site is located over a small blue hole near Pelsaert Island and comprises a 1.4-hectare area of coastal waters.

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## Source of Stock and Methods

Wildblue Holdings will be using the same culture methods as already authorised under the Licence. Culture methods include structured production panels, consisting of floating parallel line systems. From each of the lines, a synthetic fibre line is hung every 50 cm, which is used to hold seaweed during growout.

The corners of each production panel are held on the surface of the water by a float, which is fixed to “Stingray” anchors to hold the panels in place. The anchors are placed on sandy bottom to avoid any damage to sensitive benthic habitat such as coral.

For the *C. lentillifera* growout, Wildblue Holdings will be using mesh panels that will be held at the surface by floats and by clump weights at the seabed. *C. lentillifera* cuttings will be tied to the mesh nets until ready for harvest.

Wildblue Holdings uses seaweed fragments from local broodstock collected within a one nautical mile radius of the Wallabi, Easter and Pelsaert Island Groups. The seaweed fragments are placed in the growout plot until harvest.

With regard to *C. lentillifera* broodstock, the proponent is seeking to collect broodstock of this species through an Exemption.

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## Diagram

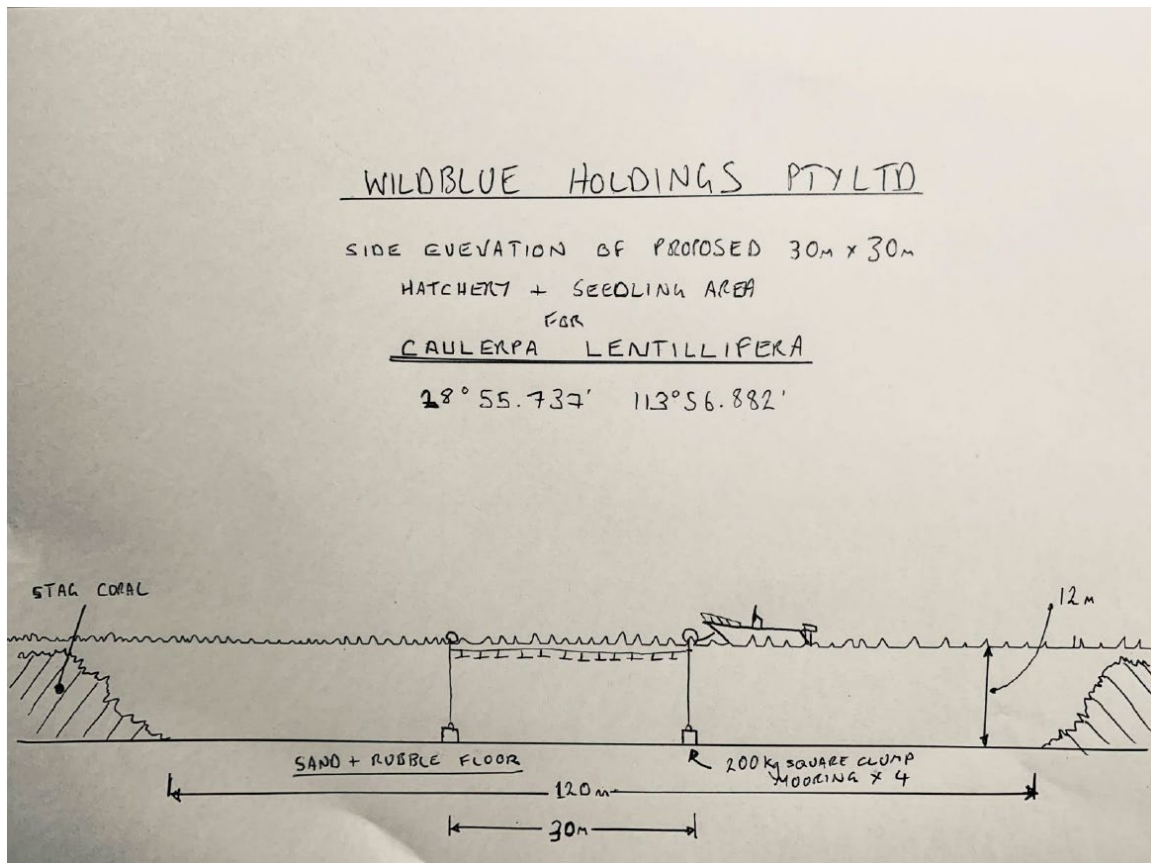


Figure 1:  
Infrastructure layout for the *Caulerpa spp.* grow-out.

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## Management and Environmental Monitoring

The biosecurity risk of this project is considered low due to the proposed species originating from local waters. As seaweed produce no faecal material and require no supplementary feed, it is unlikely that the water or sediment quality will be impacted by the operation.

Seaweed broodstock will originate from within the Abrolhos Islands to ensure that no exotic pathogens be introduced to the area.

The collection of *C. lentillifera* broodstock will be authorised under an exemption and subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.

Wildblue Holdings has submitted an updated Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures. The risk of disease through seaweed aquaculture is considered low.

It is also unlikely that the operation will have an impact on marine fauna because of the shallow nature of the proposed site and the proposed seaweed species for aquaculture not being subject to any significant predation. Nonetheless, the

proponent will be implementing management strategies to protect marine fauna from entanglement and other interactions.

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# HOUTMAN ABROLHOS - PELSAERT GROUP WILDBLUE HOLDINGS PTY LTD AQUACULTURE LICENCE - SITE PLAN

ALL THAT PORTION OF TERRITORIAL WATER WITHIN THE BOUNDARY DESCRIBED AND COLOURED GREEN ON THE PLAN BELOW COMPRISING A TOTAL AREA OF 10.071(A) AND 1.405(B) HECTARES RESPECTIVELY

113°54'E

113°56'E

113°58'E

Boundary Coordinates: Datum GDA94

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	28° 57.072' S	113° 53.922' E
2	28° 56.988' S	113° 53.994' E
3	28° 57.150' S	113° 54.240' E
4	28° 57.240' S	113° 54.162' E
5	28° 55.704' S	113° 56.850' E
6	28° 55.764' S	113° 56.850' E
7	28° 55.704' S	113° 56.928' E
8	28° 55.764' S <td 113° 56.928' E	

## Legend

- Aquaculture Licence Application Site
- Aquaculture Licence Site (Currently Held)
- Existing Aquaculture Licence Site

28°54'S

28°54'S

28°56'S

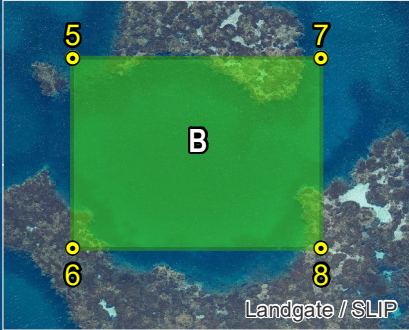
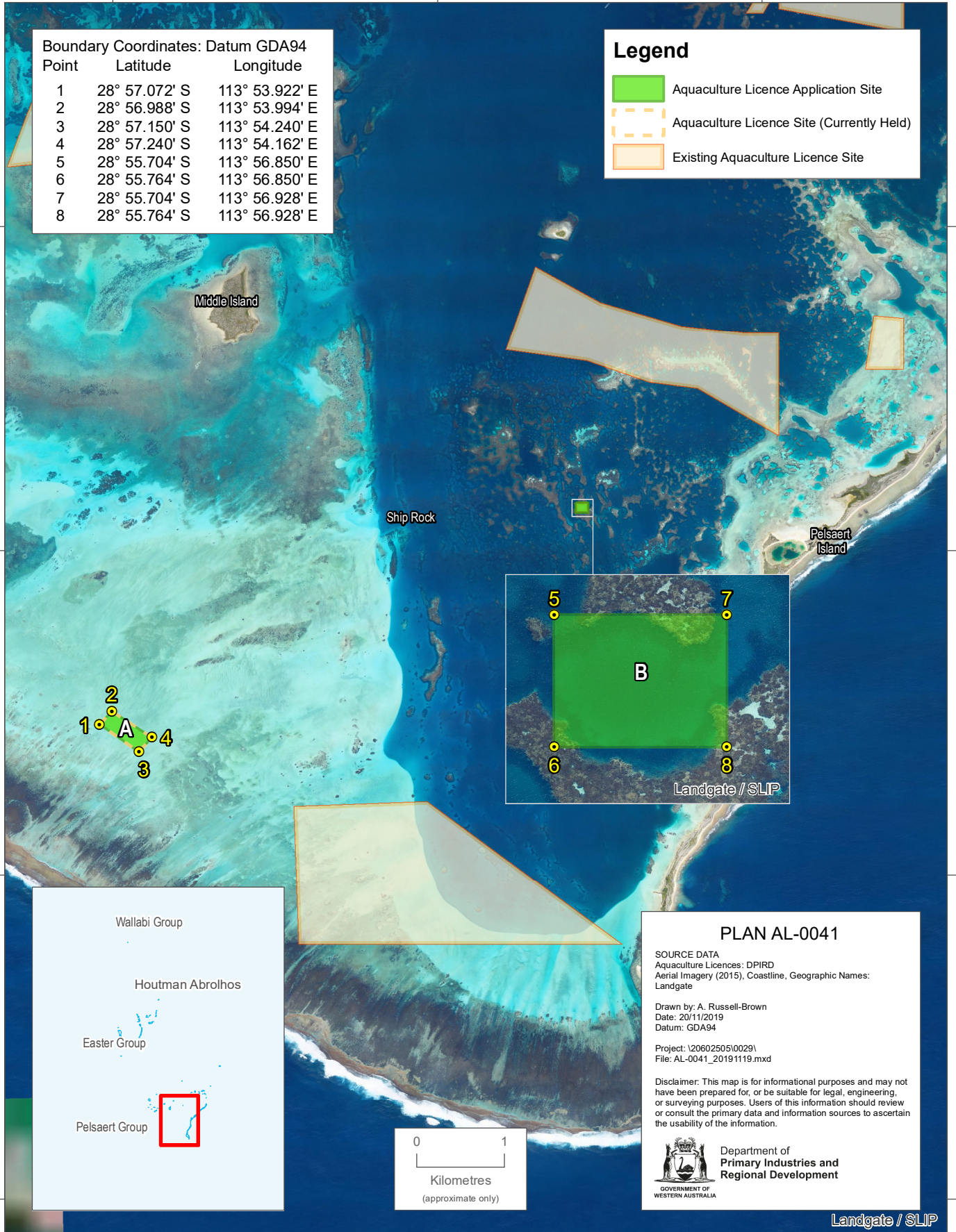
28°56'S

28°58'S

28°58'S

29°0'S

29°0'S



## PLAN AL-0041

SOURCE DATA  
Aquaculture Licences: DPIRD  
Aerial Imagery (2015), Coastline, Geographic Names:  
Landgate

Drawn by: A. Russell-Brown  
Date: 20/11/2019  
Datum: GDA94

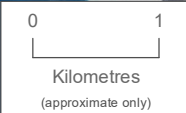
Project: \20602505\0029\  
File: AL-0041\_20191119.mxd

Disclaimer: This map is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

Landgate / SLIP



113°54'E

113°56'E

113°58'E