

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE  
LICENCE**

**by**

**Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd**

**Abrolhos Islands WA**

**January 2019**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)  
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE  
PELSAERT (WA) PTY LTD  
ABROLHOS ISLANDS WA**

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<b>File Ref</b>	L2569/13-02
<b>Date of Application</b>	2 November 2018
<b>General Location</b>	Basile Island, Southern Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
<b>Species</b>	various species of scallops, oysters, clams, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and seaweed
<b>Culture Method</b>	<p>The following culture methods are proposed for the proposed species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• scallops: <i>spat collectors, pearl nets, cages &amp; ear hanging on longlines</i></li><li>• clams: <i>settlement substrate, trays on longlines</i></li><li>• oysters: <i>cultchless seed, trays and tumblers on longlines</i></li><li>• sea cucumbers: <i>trays on longlines</i></li><li>• sea urchins: <i>trays on longlines</i></li><li>• seaweed: <i>starter pieces in collector ropes, inserted in droppers on longlines</i></li></ul>
<b>Proposed Variation</b>	Addition of culture species and addition of existing jetty and holding barge.
<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 applications for grant or variation of an aquaculture licence and lease

*Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd*

January 2019

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## Introduction

This document outlines information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding an application submitted by Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd (Pelsaert) for variation of its aquaculture licence IDCA 1540 (Licence).

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## Background

On 2 November 2018, Pelsaert made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department) to vary its Licence, which authorises the aquaculture of Akoya pearl oyster, bat wing pearl oyster, black lip pearl oyster, Shark Bay pearl oyster, Hymedesmiidae, Iriniidae, Latrunculiidae, Mycalidae, Spongiidae and Thorectidae at an offshore site near the Southern Group at the Abrolhos Islands.

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## Proposed Variation

Under the variation application, Pelsaert proposes to add to its Licence various species of scallops, clams, oysters, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and seaweed for aquaculture purposes.

The proposed species are:

- scallops: *Amusium balloti*, *Chlamys australis*;
- clams: *Tapes literatus*, *Tapes dorsatus*, *Tridacna maxima*, *Tridacna squamosa*, *Tridacna derasa*;
- oysters: *Saccostrea* spp;
- sea cucumbers: Holothuridae, *Holothuria scabra*, *Actinopyga* spp.;
- sea urchins: *Tripneustes gratilla*, *Tripneustes* spp, Toxopneustidae.
- seaweed: *Pterocladia lucida*, *Cladosiphon filum*.

In addition, Pelsaert proposes to extend the authorised site by adding to its Licence an existing jetty facility on Basile Island and a separate marine area off Basile Island to accommodate a barge. These facilities are used for temporary holding of aquaculture stocks for transfers to and from the farm sites. Additionally, oysters can be graded, seeded with pearl nuclei or have pearls harvested in facilities at the jetty or barge and again these are relatively short-term activities. On such occasions the jetty and barge may be used daily over a few months while seeding operations are occurring and usually for shorter periods when pearl harvesting is undertaken.

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## **Source of Stock and Methods**

Pelsaert is initially seeking to use broodstock sourced locally or approved for use by the Department. Production of juveniles or spat of most species will be conducted at the existing Rat Island hatchery, which is owned and operated by Abrolhos Aquaculture Australia.

Many species will be cultured in various pearl nets and then larger cages after hatchery production. Several species (clams, oysters, sea cucumbers and sea urchins) will be cultured utilising various forms of trays (some with substrates enclosed) suspended below longlines. Seaweed culture will be via starter pieces cut from collector ropes and inserted into rope droppers suspended from longlines at the marine site currently authorised under the Licence.

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## **Management and Environmental Monitoring**

Pelsaert has amended its Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), to accommodate the additional culture of new species as listed above.

The MEMP includes biosecurity and quarantine protocols as well as an environmental monitoring program to minimise potential environmental impacts. Pelsaert proposes to monitor sediment and water quality parameters at two locations within the site and at one location outside the site for reference.

With regard to Waste Management, Pelsaert will collect all solid waste matter in sealed containers and dispose of it at the local tip on mainland.

The collection of broodstock of new species will be subject to exemption conditions that are yet to be provided.

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## **Risks**

The proposed aquaculture activity poses no significant environmental risk. Identified risks have been dealt with in Pelsaert's amended MEMP.

Pelsaert takes a conservative approach to management of disease risks by complying with hatchery and translocation protocols, such as conducting regular testing of spat before transporting them from the Abrolhos Aquaculture Australia Hatchery at Rat Island to Pelsaert's site.

In addition, Pelsaert has emergency procedures in place for incidents that require immediate action, such as hydrocarbon spillage, breakage of longlines or marine mammal entanglement.

There will be no introduction of non-native or exotic species – all stock will be sourced locally or reared from broodstock species that occur naturally at the Abrolhos Islands.

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