

# **Guidelines**

## **Expression of Interest**

### **Pilot of Extensive Prawn Farming**

### **in Northern Australia**

Information to support your application  
for piloting the feasibility phase of  
extensive prawn farming development  
in northern Australia

**September 2021**

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## A. Background

### A1 – What are the goals of the Pilot?

The overarching goal of this pilot of extensive prawn farming (hereafter termed as Pilot) is to strengthen and grow aquaculture which supports Indigenous sustainable livelihoods in northern Australia. This is part of a 4-year initiative that aims to assess the viability of an extensive prawn farming industry in northern Australia and to do this in partnership with an Indigenous-controlled entity (see definition in section C1.2). The initiative will use a staged approach (see section E1.1 for stages) to progressively establish a demonstration extensive prawn farm. This approach aims to:

- ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander *community interest and aspirations* for aquaculture development are understood
- *partner to co-design* a demonstration extensive prawn farm
- raise community *awareness* of aquaculture as a potential sustainable option for Indigenous livelihoods
- create the basis for *external investment* into prawn farming and other segments of the supply chain
- provide *training, knowledge and expertise* to help de-risk a commercial enterprise

### A2 – How is the Pilot innovative?

The Pilot will be new and innovative for Australia as it works through some key components of:

- co-designing extensive prawn farming models that meet Indigenous needs and aspirations
- transforming entry barriers into engagement opportunities for Indigenous peoples through aquaculture
- understanding the regulations for extensive prawn farming so these barriers for success can be addressed
- assessing if the extensive farming model is viable in Australia

As with any new innovation, there will be uncertainties and risks (detailed below in section E6.1 & E6.2) but we are hoping the relationships and trust built during the Pilot will help address any inherent challenges. Please see website (<https://research.csiro.au/ExtensivePrawnFarming/>) to learn more about extensive prawn farming.



### **A3 – Who is CSIRO and why are we running the Pilot call?**

The Pilot is being led by CSIRO – Australia’s national science agency, in particular CSIRO’s Livestock & Aquaculture program. The Aquaculture program has 25+ years’ experience working directly with the prawn farming industry in Australia and overseas (<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/animals/Aquaculture>). Simon Irvin is the CSIRO lead for the Pilot and is supported by a team of scientists who have a diverse range of skills:

- Prawn farming (propagation, husbandry, health, nutrition and breeding)
- Sustainable Indigenous livelihood development
- Coastal and fisheries management
- Economics

The makeup of the team will change as the project progresses and could come to include skills involving marketing and processing. The CSIRO Aquaculture Program have worked internationally, in countries like Vietnam for many years and would like to explore the potential to grow northern Australia’s aquaculture production in ways that support community aspirations and provide high quality aquaculture food products. CSIRO has funded this initiative to assess interest from communities and Indigenous entities in extensive prawn farming. Please see sections E3.4 & E3.5 that outline the type of activities that CSIRO will and will not fund.

### **A4 – Why partner with an Indigenous organisation or enterprise?**

Indigenous economic advancement is critical to increasing productivity, encouraging investment and realising the full potential of northern Australia. A strong and prosperous north that is committed to working alongside the interests of Indigenous land owners, communities and businesses is critical to the northern Australia agenda. Partnerships with Indigenous organisations unite efforts across government, industry, agencies and communities.

### **A5 – Why an EOI process to the Pilot call?**

An open and competitively assessed EOI is being adopted rather than targeting a particular organisation, community or company because it brings openness and fairness to our goal of supporting this Pilot to be more accessible to a number of interested groups. We understand that our open and competitive EOI call across northern Australia will raise increased interest while at the same time being a source of disappointment for unsuccessful EOI’s.

The announcement of the successful EOI has two components. We acknowledge the disappointment unsuccessful bids might feel but hope that this does not close the book on any subsequent interactions with CSIRO. Our team understands the



importance of strengthening and growing Indigenous-led aquaculture across the north. The Pilot is based on sharing learnings with interested groups and any future opportunities so we hope unsuccessful groups stay connected through our register of interest (see register at <https://research.csiro.au/ExtensivePrawnFarming/>).

#### A6 – What support will CSIRO provide in this initiative?

CSIRO’s Livestock and Aquaculture program has secured internal CSIRO funds to support various stages of the Pilot (see E1.1 for stages). This support will be a mixture of in-kind (e.g. staff time) and capital (e.g. infrastructure investment) support. Details about the specific level of current funds across the stages will be worked through in the partnership arrangement discussions with the successful EOI applicant. The intention is to look for additional resources from other agencies (e.g. government, companies, NGOs) who are also interested in Indigenous aquaculture development. This additional funding will mean that further support can be provided across the different stages. The following table shows the support currently available for stages 1-5 of the initiative:

	Stage 1 Expression of interest	Stage 2 Feasibility of pilot site	Stage 3 Acquiring approvals for aquaculture	Stage 4 Aquaculture demonstration	Stage 5 Aquaculture enterprise
Supporting background material for the EOI opportunity	✓				
CSIRO staff allocations across multiple expertise		✓	✓	✓	
Support with sharing of learnings		✓	✓	✓	✓
Support with obtaining further investment		✓	✓	✓	✓
CSIRO staff located locally to support the demonstration farm				✓	
Funding to initiate the design and construction of the demonstration farm				✓	



Prawn supply for stocking of ponds				✓	
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### A7 – What assistance is provided to help develop your EOI?

Two online Q&A webcasts will be run on the dates of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Join from your desk using the links below. Pre-registration is not required. Questions are welcome and may be submitted in advance before the webcast by emailing [extensive.prawns@csiro.au](mailto:extensive.prawns@csiro.au) or using the online tools available in the webcast. If you would like a reminder about the webcast please email us at [extensive.prawns@csiro.au](mailto:extensive.prawns@csiro.au) and we can send through a calendar invite. The online webcast will be run through a method where the audience will not be able to see each other, and your posted questions will remain anonymous to the audience, but your questions will be seen by the CSIRO presenters. If you have any questions please contact Simon Irvin, CSIRO project leader, on (07) 3410 3101 or send an email to the above email address.

WebCast on 1-2pm (AEST) Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021: click on WEBCAST LINK: <https://webcast.csiro.au/#/webcasts/extensiveprawnfarming>

WebCast on 1-2pm (AEST) Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021: click on WEBCAST LINK: <https://webcast.csiro.au/#/webcasts/extensiveprawnfarming>

### A8 – Privacy Statement

Your personal information is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act) and CSIRO will handle your personal information in accordance with this Act and the NH&MRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated 2018).

Your personal information, including your name, organisational entity name and address, position title, contact details, login details used to access the online information session and any questions you may ask via the chat function of the online session, your responses to the EOI application questions/process, and any additional personal information you provide to facilitate a site visit, is being collected for the purpose of identifying a successful Indigenous-controlled entity to pilot extensive prawn farming.

Please note, that where you may provide the above personal information on behalf of other personnel at your organisational entity, you must have their authorisation to include their personal information in the application form and/or to provide to CSIRO.





CSIRO may disclose your personal information to Vbrick as part of you attending the online information Webcasts.

With your consent, CSIRO may disclose your organisational entity name publicly, if your organisation is the selected applicant.

The information collected as part of the EOI application process will be reviewed by the CSIRO Project Team to identify a successful Indigenous-controlled entity to pilot extensive prawn farming and to contact you with the outcome of your application. If you are selected, further information will be provided to you about the next stages of the project including how your personal information will be handled at those stages.

The CSIRO Privacy Policy available at <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/policies/privacy> outlines how your personal information will be handled, including details about how you can seek access or correction of the personal information we hold about you, how you can lodge a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and how CSIRO will deal with the complaint. If you require further information on how your personal information will be handled, please contact [privacy@csiro.au](mailto:privacy@csiro.au)

For information about how Vbrick generally handles personal information, please refer to its privacy policy available at <https://vbrick.com/privacy-policy/>

### **A9 – Use and storage of information**

Information that you include in your EOI application will be used to identify a successful EOI applicant. The EOI responses will be stored electronically on CSIRO password protected computers.

### **A10 – Human Research Ethics**

A full ethics application was submitted to the CSIRO Social Science and Human Research Ethics Committee and ethics approval was granted in September 2021 (109/21). Human Research Ethics plays a central role in reviewing research proposals involving human participants to ensure that they are ethically acceptable and in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines.

### **A11 – Timeframes**

Key dates for the EOI process are:

- EOI is advertised on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- Online Q&A sessions on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (see links above in section A7).
- EOI closes by 11pm on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021
- Successful EOI notified in early 2022

## B. Assessment of EOI

### B1 – What are the eligibility criteria, requirements and readiness for being part of the Pilot?

The identification of the successful EOI will be based on several components. Firstly, there are 4 eligibility criteria used to determine who can apply (see section C1.1) that are based around location and characteristics of your Indigenous-controlled entity. Secondly, there are 7 essential requirements for being part of the Pilot based around permissions, commitment and partnerships of the Pilot (see section E3.1). Lastly, there are 5 key readiness attributes based on interest, support, capacity, governance and collaboration strengths (see EOI assessment criteria 3 to 6, section B3).

### B2 – Is there additional criteria weighting?

Additional weighting will be given to Indigenous-controlled entities who:

- a. own the land on which the Pilot will be undertaken, in the sense of holding the freehold title
- b. can provide capacity (either time of people or funding or some other resource) as support towards the initiative
- c. already have an established aquaculture enterprise or related enterprise

It is not essential that your Indigenous-controlled entity owns the freehold title to the area for a Pilot site. However, if a freehold title does exist it will add to the weighting of the EOI.

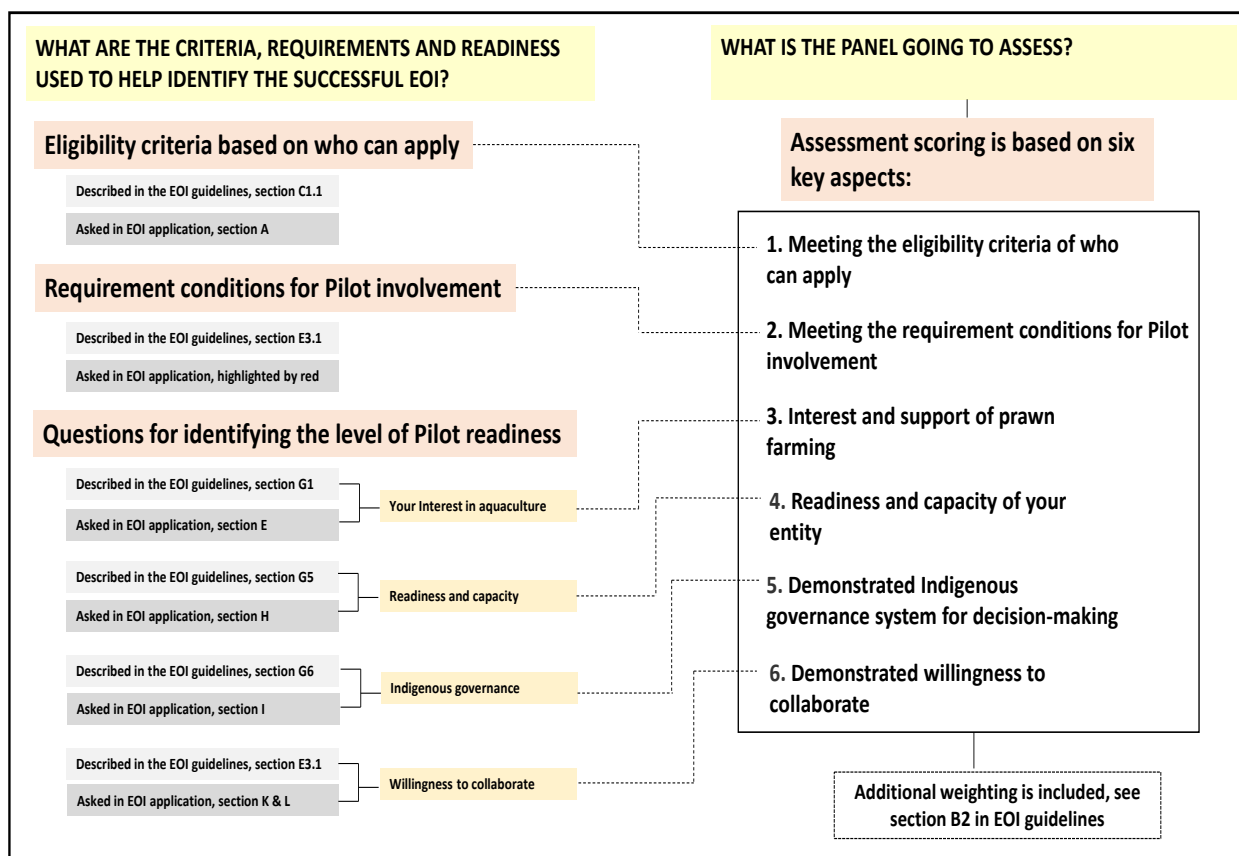
### B3 – How will the EOI be assessed?

The EOI will be competitively assessed and only **one** Indigenous entity will be selected. If your EOI application does not fulfil the essential EOI assessment criteria of 1 and 2 (see below) then it will not qualify for further consideration as a Pilot. Your EOI will be assessed objectively against each of six criteria below.

EOI assessment criteria	Where do we address the criteria in the EOI application
1. Meets the Eligibility Criteria [See list in Guidelines, Section C1.1]	Section A
2. Meets all the Pilot requirement conditions in the EOI template [See list in Guidelines, Section E3.1]	All the seven Pilot requirement questions are highlighted in red in the EOI template; stated in D1, E2, H4, K1, L1, L2 and L3.
3. Demonstrated interest and support of prawn farming	Section F & G
4. Readiness and capacity of your entity	Section H
5. Demonstrated Indigenous governance system for decision-making	Section I
6. Demonstrated willingness to collaborate	Section K & L

Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel against the criteria above. We have developed a figure (see below) to help more visually give an overview of our assessment process. The panel will assess and rank EOI applications against EOI assessment criteria. The panel may request further information during this stage if required. The final decision made by the panel on the successful EOI applicant is not open to appeal.





#### **B4 – What is involved with being a short listed EOI applicant?**

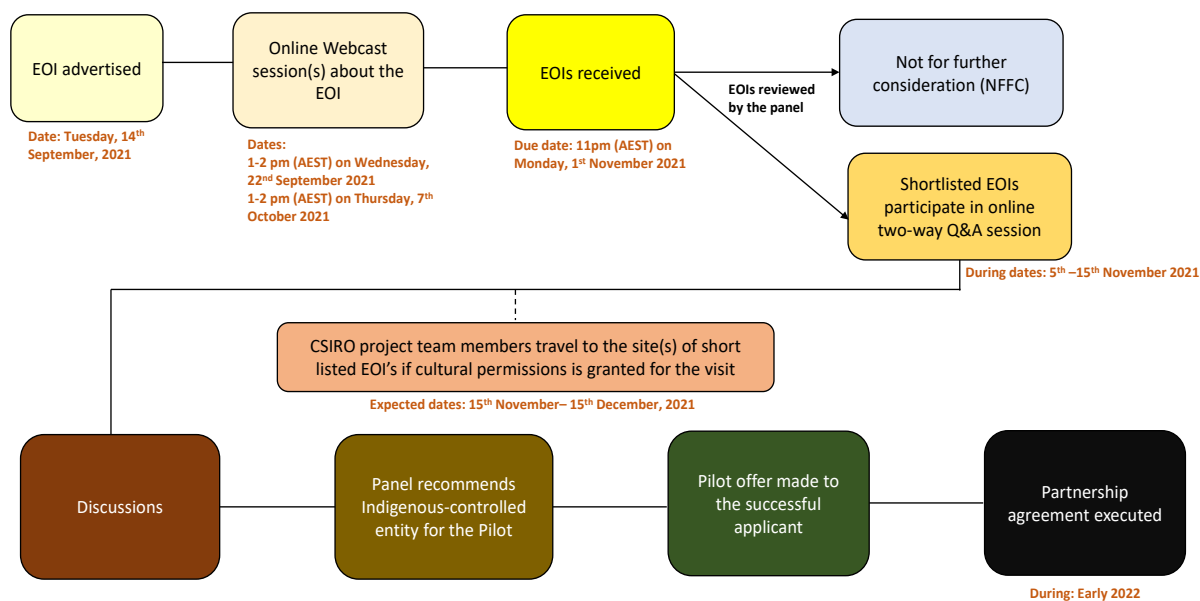
If you are selected as a short listed EOI applicant, you will be asked to participate in a Q&A session with CSIRO staff members. This will provide you with an opportunity to ask CSIRO questions and for CSIRO team members to ask any clarifying questions. An agenda will be sent out before the session. The session will also be used to help plan for the essential site visit to each short listed EOI applicant. The team will be aiming to have all site visit(s) conducted between mid-November and mid-December so that a decision can be made during early 2022. The inability to arrange a day to visit the potential Pilot site before the end of 2021 will impact your opportunity to be selected as a successful EOI applicant. If possible, identifying a potential day to conduct a site visit would be advantageous.

#### **B5 – What if we are not selected in the short-list, how can we still be involved?**

There will be multiple ways to stay connected to Indigenous aquaculture developments. You need to tick the relevant boxes in the register form to indicate your level of interest (see register form on the extensive prawn farming website; <https://research.csiro.au/ExtensivePrawnFarming/>).

## B6 – Notification of EOI outcome

The initiative can only support one successful applicant to progress through the Pilot feasibility phase to the demonstration phase. The EOIs recommended for shortlisting will be notified through email and an offer to participate in further Q&A sessions will be made. Unsuccessful EOI will be notified through email and an offer to receive feedback on the outcome will be made. The successful applicant will be notified in early 2022, see diagram directly below for the notification process.



## C. Eligibility criteria

### C1 – Who can apply

#### C1.1 – Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, your Indigenous-controlled entity must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Must be an incorporated entity and Indigenous-controlled, permitted to hold assets according to its constitution or rules of incorporation.
2. Must have controlling interests in at least one of the following:
  - a. Freehold titles
  - b. Leasehold titles
  - c. Native title determined land
  - d. Management agreements
  - e. Business and Enterprise
3. Hold or be willing to hold the required insurances.

4. The area of your Country that identifies the area that your entity has controlling rights and/or interests (see sections D1.1 & D1.2; for producing map of your area) must be within the eligible area in northern Australia (see sections D1.3 for identification of northern Australia).

### **C1.2 – How are we defining an entity being Indigenous-controlled?**

We have defined an Indigenous-controlled entity based on your entity being incorporated and governed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. For your incorporated entity to be considered Indigenous-controlled, according to the requirements for our Pilot, your entity must satisfy the following requirements:

- ⊗ Must be an incorporated entity
- ⊗ Constitution and/or rules of incorporation reflecting majority Indigenous membership and/or Indigenous board of governance

### **C1.3 – Are auspice arrangements possible?**

Auspice arrangements are not possible as this initiative is based on CSIRO working directly with the Indigenous-controlled entity.

## **D. Considerations for assessing location suitability for the Pilot site**

### **D1. Location suitability for Pilot site**

#### **D1.1 – What is the assessment process for identifying the location suitability of the Pilot site?**

Identifying a suitable location for the Pilot site of extensive prawn farming will be assessed through multiple steps. Firstly, we ask you to provide a map of your Country that identifies the area that your entity has controlling rights and/or interests. This map will be used by the assessment panel to carry out an initial assessment of the general suitability of the area for a Pilot site of extensive prawn farming. Secondly, we carry out an essential on-ground visit for short-listed EOI's and to gain further understanding of the area and potential Pilot site. We have outlined the site selection criteria for extensive prawn farming in the EOI guidelines document (Section D1.3) to provide insight into the criteria being used to make a decision on whether the identified area is suitable for extensive prawn farming. Please note, these are provided for your background information you do not have to address the physical characteristics in the EOI application.



## D1.2 – How do we produce a map of our Country that identifies the area that our entity has controlling rights and/or interests?

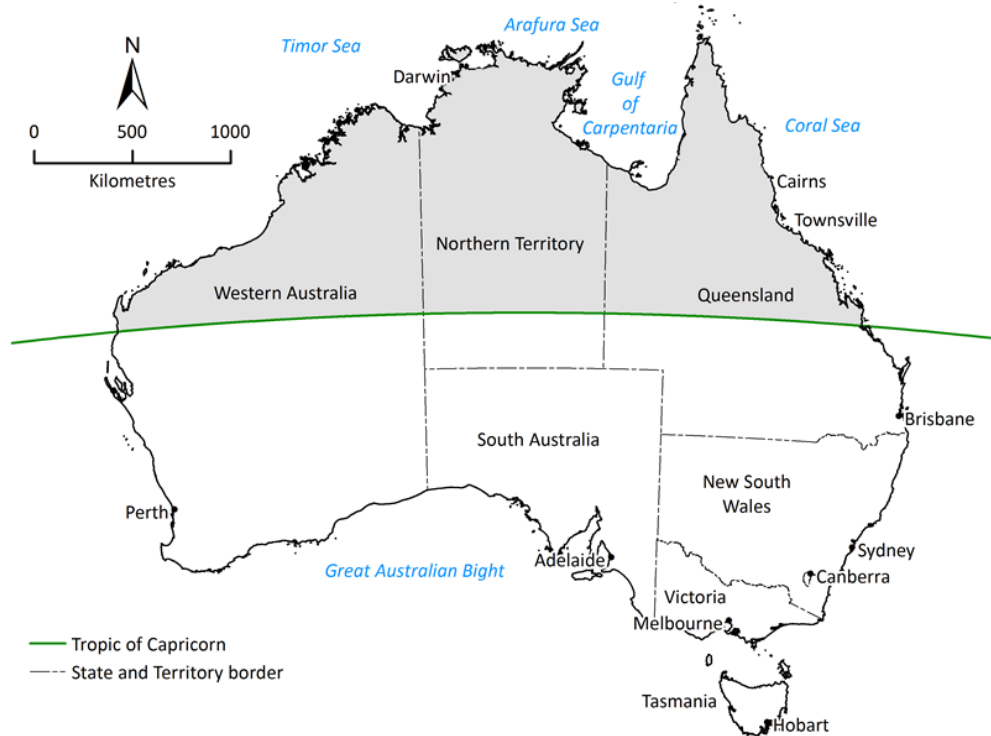
An example of a map is provided in Appendix A along with tips on how to produce a map if assistance is needed. See the Appendix A on the website in the ‘find out more and apply’ tab at <https://research.csiro.au/ExtensivePrawnFarming/>

## D1.3 – What is the site selection criteria?

Site selection will be integral part of the feasibility stage of the Pilot for extensive prawn farming. Site visit(s) by CSIRO team members will be **essential** to making a decision on whether the identified area is suitable for extensive prawn farming. This site visit will be carried out for short-listed EOI applications.

The site selection criteria for the Pilot site covers four key areas:

- 1) **Geography** of the Pilot site must be located in northern Australia including parts of Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia above the Tropic of Capricorn, see the map below.



- 2) **Physical characteristics** of the land suitable for an extensive prawn farm are listed in the table below. Please note we are not asking you to supply information about these physical characteristics for the EOI application. Information will be gathered about physical characteristics during the essential site visit for short-listed EOI applications.

	Optimal	Tolerable	Unsuitable
<b>Water source</b>			
<i>Salinity</i>	10 – 25 ppt	5 – 40 ppt	< 5 ppt or > 40 ppt
<i>Water temperature</i>	26 – 32 °C	15 – 35 °C	< 15 °C or > 35 °C
<i>Distance water</i>	<500 m	500 m – 2 km	>2 km
<b>Topography</b>			
<i>Elevation</i>	< 15 m	15 m – 25 m	> 25 m
<i>Slope</i>	< 2%	2 – 5%	> 5%
<b>Soil characteristics</b>			
<i>Permeability</i>	Very slow	Slow-Moderate	Rapid
<i>Clay content</i>	> 30%	10 – 30%	< 10%
<i>Soil depth</i>	> 1.5 m	0.5 m – 1.5 m	< 0.5 m
<i>Acid sulphate soil</i>	Known absent	Low-Moderate occurrence	Widespread occurrence
<b>Area</b>	> 10 ha	5 – 10 ha	< 5 ha

- 3) *Consideration of the Significance* of environmental features (i.e., world heritage sites, cultural significant sites).
- 4) Other considerations based on *accessibility of site*. We assess accessibility in the EOI application through questions involving likelihood of the area being cut off during the wet season and distance to nearest airport or barge.

#### D1.4 – What if my site doesn’t meet all the site selection criteria?

Each application will be assessed individually based on site suitability, as well as, other considerations (See figure in B3) detailed in the request for Expressions of Interest. An optimal site would meet all of the site selection criteria, however, farming may still be possible if all criteria are not met. Indigenous-controlled entities with a genuine interest and aspiration for aquaculture development should still apply, as CSIRO reserves the right to negotiate with interested parties should all criteria not be met.

#### D1.5 – Why is the Pilot site being selected in northern Australia?

The warm waters of northern Australia provide an ideal environment for fast growing and healthy prawns. Vast areas of suitable land exist in the coastal regions of north Queensland, the Northern Territory and north Western Australia. The north is an ideal location to assess the viability of extensive prawn farming. The Government has several strategies to support development in the region including *Our North Our Future* and a national aquaculture strategy to double production to \$2b by 2027. Also, there is an intergovernmental agreement focused on progressing Indigenous economic development through a northern Australia Indigenous Development Accord.



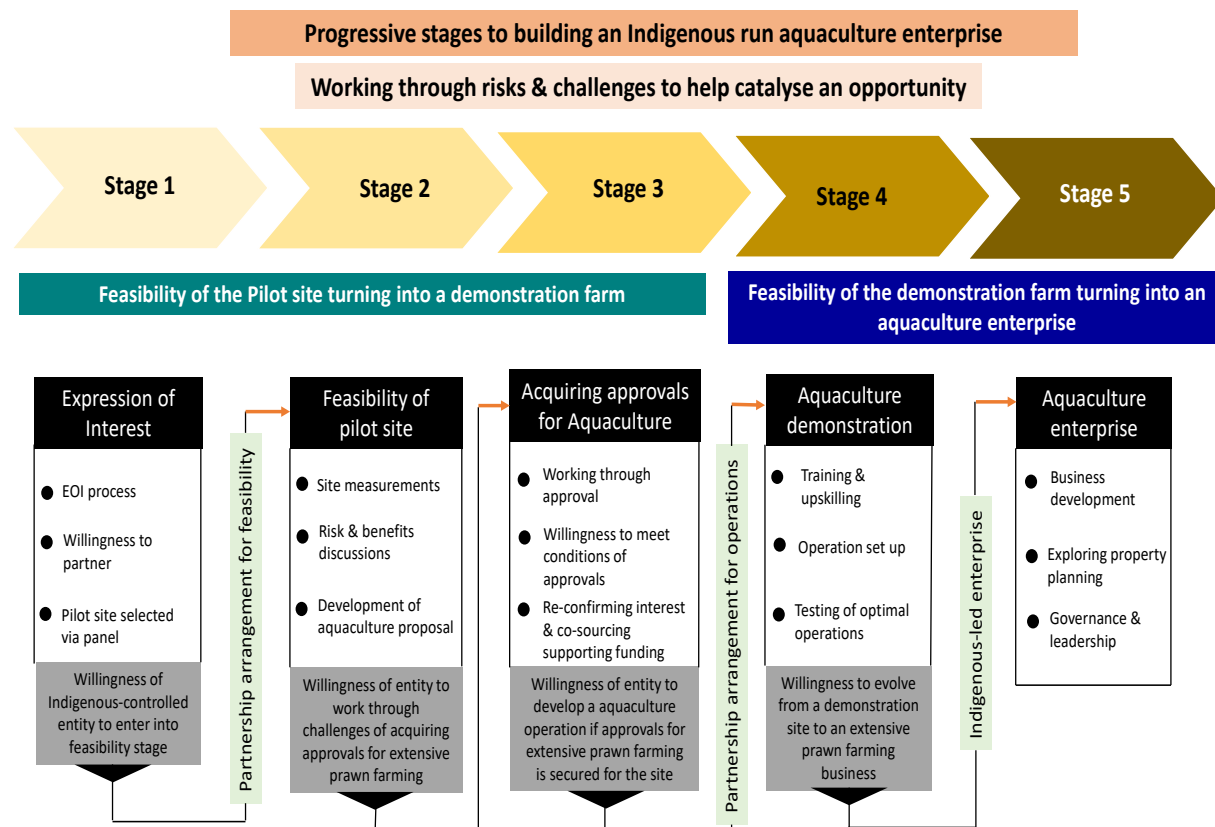


## E. Key aspects to consider before applying

### E1 – Stages of the initiative

#### E1.1 – What are the stages of the initiative?

There will be multiple stages during the extensive prawn farming initiative. These are outlined in the diagram directly below.



#### E1.2 – How does the initiative plan to embed past learnings with Indigenous aquaculture development?

This initiative will be actively learning from existing knowledge by selecting an established species and farming system which requires minimal supporting infrastructure and has been proven overseas. We will place focus on understanding recognised difficulties with Indigenous aquaculture developments such as challenges with non-established or novel species, inadequate infrastructure, short term funding and cultural barriers. The team understands the recognised importance of Indigenous governance and decision-making.

## **E2 – Level of commitment**

### **E2.1 – How does CSIRO intend on supporting the initiative beyond the 4 years of foundational funding?**

The development of aquaculture in northern Australia is embedded in CSIRO's strategy. CSIRO has committed four years of foundational funding to support this initiative, with the co-sourcing further supporting funding and investment a fundamental part of the Pilot.

## **E3 – Conditions of being part of the initiative**

### **E3.1 – What are the requirements with being part of the initiative?**

The requirements vary at different stages of the extensive prawn farm initiative, as described in the table directly below. The initiative stretches across the stages of maturing from the feasibility of Pilot site to the goal of setting up a demonstration prawn farm and beyond to Stage 5. By reaching Stage 4, then the Pilot of extensive prawn farming is replaced with the demonstration of extensive prawn farming. We do not require your Indigenous-controlled entity to contribute any funding towards the feasibility of the Pilot process (Stages 1 to 3; see figure in section E1.1), other than the time mentioned below. However, co-sourcing funding and investment is important to strengthening the initiative. Note, if you have capacity to offer more time than the 0.2 FTE (1 day a week) through in-kind support please let us know in the EOI template under the capacity section.

For Indigenous-controlled entities that are shortlisted in the EOI process, there is a requirement that CSIRO staff undertake the essential visit to inspect the intended site(s) of the prawn farm Pilot to assist with assessing the site suitability criteria. The successful Indigenous-controlled entity selected from the EOI process will be required to meet all the conditions listed in the table directly below. We understand that COVID could place delays on the project team members visiting a site.



Requirements	Stage 1 Expression of interest	Stage 2 Feasibility of Pilot site	Stage 3 Acquiring approvals for aquaculture	Stage 4 Aquaculture demonstration	Stage 5 Aquaculture enterprise
1. Provide a map of your Country that identifies the area that your entity has controlling rights and/or interests. Note, this map helps to support the initial assessment of site suitability	✓				
2. Outline a plan about how to obtain relevant cultural site clearance for CSIRO staff to undertake the essential visit to inspect the intended site of the prawn farm pilot. Note, this will be carried in the shortlisting step	✓				
3. Negotiating and signing a partnership agreement with CSIRO (see terms of partnership agreement in E3.2)		✓			
4. A minimum of 0.2 FTE (1 day a week) for an individual for your entity to be involved in working alongside the CSIRO team to progress the initiative forward		✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Willingness to share learnings with interested Indigenous groups and the public		✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Co-designing proposals to seek funding to support and strengthen the initiative		✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Co-present on the initiative with CSIRO team members and also participate in a video production with CSIRO team members		✓	✓	✓	✓

### E3.2 – What is the intended partnership arrangement between your Indigenous-controlled entity and CSIRO?

It is expected that the successful EOI applicant will enter into an agreement with CSIRO before proceeding to Stage 2 (see figure in section E1.1 for stages). The agreement will clearly define the role and responsibilities for both parties including but not limited to decision making frameworks, mutual obligations and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) to ensure mutual benefits are met.

### E3.3 – Can I cease from being part of the Pilot?

Yes, you can cease to be part of the EOI process at anytime during Stage 1 and then as per conditions of the negotiated partnership terms.

### E3.4 – What activities will be funded?

Below, we have outlined the type of activities that will be funded by CSIRO. When the expertise of Indigenous practitioners are required these skills and contributions will be secured through a contract.

Stage 1 Expression of interest	Stage 2 Feasibility of pilot site	Stage 3 Acquiring approvals for Aquaculture	Stage 4 Aquaculture demonstration	Stage 5 Aquaculture enterprise
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal support costs of \$2000 to support the negotiation of partnership terms</li> <li>• Minor contracted work essential to the achievement of initiative outcomes</li> <li>• Selective travel will be funded where expenses are attributable to learning outcomes</li> <li>• Videography expenses essential to detailing learnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel will be funded where expenses are attributable to learning outcomes</li> <li>• Minor contracted work essential to the achievement of initiative outcomes</li> <li>• Videography expenses essential to detailing learnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor construction work for the establishment prawn ponds</li> <li>• Purchase of equipment that is essential to the achievement of initiative outcomes</li> <li>• Minor contracted work essential to the achievement of initiative outcomes</li> <li>• Videography expenses essential to detailing learnings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor contracted work essential to the achievement of initiative outcomes</li> </ul>



### E3.5 – What can't be funded by CSIRO?

While the initiative has currently secured internal strategic CSIRO funding for four years, there are restrictions around how the funding can be used. Salary expenses of positions related to the normal administrative operations of your Indigenous-controlled entity will not be funded by CSIRO at any stage of the initiative. Also, payment for the participation of First Nation members of the community in general meetings or workshops related to the development of the initiative will not be funded. Also, see below about other specific limits on funding at Stage 4 and 5.

Stage 1 Expression of interest	Stage 2 Feasibility of pilot site	Stage 3 Acquiring approvals for Aquaculture	Stage 4 Aquaculture demonstration	Stage 5 Aquaculture enterprise
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of land or other real estate property not funded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenses related to property and enterprise infrastructure not funded</li> </ul>

### E4 – What happens after the Pilot phase?

#### E4.1 – Will my participation in the Pilot lead to a demonstration prawn farm?

While the initiative has a key goal of the Pilot leading to a demonstration prawn farm, there are foundational building blocks needed for this goal to be achieved. It is important to note that there is no guarantee that the stage of the demonstration extensive prawn farm will be reached. Several key factors influence whether the goal of a demonstration prawn farm is reached. Below, we have detailed some of the key factors impacting progression:

- Ability to obtain government approval for the extensive prawn farm
- Interest and willingness of all parties to continuously work through inherent challenges
- Establishment of multi-agency support and investment
- Obtaining appropriate cultural permission and approval to commence work on building the demonstration farm
- Securing acquisition of land for the construction of the extensive prawn farm
- Indigenous-led governance and decision-making for the operation of the demonstration farm



#### **E4.2 – How will due diligence be given to protecting the environment and cultural values of the site and surrounding area?**

Extensive prawn farming is considered a more environmentally friendly model of farming than more intensive farming due to the low intensity and low input methods used. Careful consideration and assessment of the site prior to development will be carried out in partnership with the Indigenous-controlled entity to respectfully address environmental, cultural and social values. It will be necessary to disturb and clear parts of the land for the construction of ponds and channels. Careful and ongoing environmental monitoring will ensure potential impacts to the environment are identified and managed.

The proposed demonstration farm will be approximately 10 ha of pond area (made up of multiple 1-2 ha ponds and research tanks), which is small enough for careful environment management and rehabilitation (if required) but large enough to accurately assess viability of extensive farming. A rehabilitation plan will be developed, and conditions agreed to by all parties during the planning and partnership phase. A key component of this plan will be identifying pre-disturbance characteristics of the land and surrounding water environment so that accurate impacts and sustainability assessments can be made as well as rehabilitation replicating these conditions should it be required.

#### **E4.3 – Will my participation in the demonstration prawn farm lead to a prawn farm enterprise?**


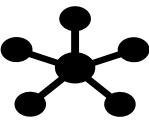

The end goal of the initiative is to establish an Indigenous-led aquaculture enterprise; however as outlined above, there are foundational building blocks needed for this goal to be achieved. This means there is the possibility of reaching the stage of an aquaculture enterprise, but it is not guaranteed. There are several key factors that influence whether the goal of an Indigenous-led aquaculture enterprise is reached. Some of the key factors include:

- Training and capacity development
- Assessing the viability of the aquaculture enterprise based on market and return on investment by taking into account site-specific information
- Business planning for the aquaculture enterprise
- Interest and willingness of the Indigenous-controlled entity to continuously work through inherent challenges
- Indigenous-led governance and decision-making for the operation of the enterprise
- Indigenous-controlled entity having access to ongoing technical support to work through inherent challenges.





## E5 – Intended benefits & reciprocity

### E5.1 – Intended benefits to your entity from being involved

 <p><b>Training &amp; learnings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Opportunity for training and development</li> <li>➤ Learning new skills about extensive prawn farming</li> <li>➤ Sharing your learnings with others</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Networks &amp; governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strengthening and building new networks with other agencies or groups</li> <li>➤ Strengthen business and Indigenous-led governance structures for community development</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Jobs &amp; economic development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Opportunity to provide jobs for remote and regional communities at the stage of an established enterprise</li> <li>➤ Opportunity for economic development as an aquaculture enterprise</li> <li>➤ Opportunities for strengthening a path for economic independence for families and communities</li> </ul>

### E5.2 – What are the benefit sharing mechanisms?

 <p><b>Sharing of learnings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Participants sharing their experience their learnings and challenges to help others who may be embarking on a similar enterprise</li> <li>➤ Shared learning between the Pilot partner and CSIRO</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Co-written reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Co-owning the reports and key learnings</li> </ul>

### E5.3 – Intended science benefits through understanding aquaculture enterprise readiness

The initiative aims to provide science knowledge regarding the readiness components for setting up Indigenous-led aquaculture operations and enterprise.



This will assist with understanding the ability to develop Indigenous-led aquaculture enterprises in other parts of Australia.

#### E5.4 – How is reciprocity being considered?

The team is aware of the importance of reciprocity with achieving mutual benefits. We aim to build respectful exchanges based around:

- ❖ sharing practices and lessons learnt
- ❖ clear and communicated expectations about participation
- ❖ respecting cultural expectations
- ❖ taking time to build trust and mutual respect

### E6 – Uncertainties & risks

#### E6.1 – What are the key uncertainties that need to be brought to my attention for planning ahead?

Uncertainties	How are uncertainties being tackled
There is no certainty that your participation in this Pilot (Stages 1-3; see Figure in E1.1) will lead to an established demonstration farm in Stage 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Building the aquaculture development through phases</li> <li>❖ Managing expectations through transparency with challenges &amp; risks</li> </ul>
There is no certainty that sufficient funds will be secured to help establish a demonstration farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ CSIRO has 4 years of foundational funding</li> <li>❖ Co-sourcing of support funding is a key aspect of the initiative (this means CSIRO will work with successful EOI entity to try to secure further funds)</li> </ul>
There is no certainty that your participation in the demonstration feasibility will lead to a viable prawn farm enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Building the aquaculture development through phases</li> <li>❖ Managing expectations through transparency with challenges &amp; risks</li> </ul>
There is no certainty that the extensive prawn farming initiative will be supported by other fishing or aquaculture sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Build on established communication with the fisheries and aquaculture sector</li> <li>❖ Follow agreed communication plan with the fisheries and aquaculture sector</li> </ul>
Approval of farm site via regulatory processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Working with government to establish protocols for meeting regulatory guidelines</li> </ul>





## E6.2 – What are the risks and how are risks addressed?

<p><b>Time delay risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Timeframes for regulatory approvals may delay project outcomes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and understand the importance of working with relevant government agencies to establish protocols for meeting regulatory guidelines</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expectation risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is the challenge of potential inflated expectations from members of the Indigenous entity or community that the pilot will immediately mature into an aquaculture enterprise</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and plan to put in place up-front transparency about working through the stages of progression</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is the challenge of ensuring Indigenous governance reflects important relationships, networks and ways of behaving</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and plan to develop arrangements that incorporate both the Indigenous requirement for cultural legitimacy, as well as meeting the initiative requirements</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The operation of the prawn farm can be impacted by environment conditions such as extreme weather events and ecological or biological factors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and plan to advise about the unpredictable nature of environmental change</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extensive prawn farming may prove to not be viable in the region (cost more to produce than profit)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and understand the importance of carrying out modelling and business planning to better understand the viability of prawn farming</li> </ul>
<p><b>Market risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extensive prawn farming may prove to not be viable in the region given changes in market demand</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addressing the risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We acknowledge this challenge and plan to address market challenges in the business development stage</li> </ul>



## F. Developing an EOI

### F1 – How to apply?

To apply, download the Expression of Interest Application Form.pdf form from the website (<https://research.csiro.au/ExtensivePrawnFarming/>). Please note you need to download the application form and save to your computer. The EOI application pdf is a fillable form that you enter your information into and save to your computer.

Email the completed EOI application form with any supporting information to [extensive.prawns@csiro.au](mailto:extensive.prawns@csiro.au)

Expression of Interest closes on 11pm (AEST) on Monday 1st November 2021.

### F2 – What if we have questions and queries?

Contact the CSIRO team by email [extensive.prawns@csiro.au](mailto:extensive.prawns@csiro.au) or reach the project leader, Simon Irvin, by phone (07) 3410 3101.

### F3 – Late applications

EOI submitted after the end date will not be accepted.

## G. Completing the EOI template

Below, we have tried to explain some of the key concepts used in the EOI application template. We have not provided a complete breakdown of all the sections and questions in the application. If you have specific questions that we have not covered in the EOI guidelines please contact us ([extensive.prawns@csiro.au](mailto:extensive.prawns@csiro.au)) or attend one of the scheduled webcasts (see timings on section A.7). Also, we will update the frequently asked questions (FAQs) page on our website (<https://research.csiro.au/extensiveprawnfarming/faq/>) if there are common questions that we receive, so please check that page.

### G1 – Your interest in aquaculture

In the EOI application, we ask you to demonstrate your interest in aquaculture. This interest can be drawn from key documents such as your developed strategies for economic development or past discussions with key people about aquaculture. Any information that you can provide about the strength of your interest is sought.



## **G2 – Indigenous entity function**

There are many ways Indigenous-controlled entities can be set up to function. In the EOI application, we ask you to describe how your entity functions but we also provide some examples. The types of entity arrangements listed in the EOI application are eligible if you have ticked Yes to Question A1, A2 and A3 in the application. We ask this question about how your entity functions because it is important to know whether your Indigenous-controlled entity is or is not the same entity that represents Traditional Owner interests in terms of obtaining permissions and informed consent to work on Country and sites. This question helps to understand more information about how to seek the relevant cultural site clearance and what agreements may need to be negotiated with Indigenous organisations or groups with cultural authority over the Pilot site.

## **G3 – Map of your Country**

In the EOI application, we ask that you provide a map of your Country that identifies the area that your entity has controlling rights and/or interests. This helps the panellist to initially assess the site suitability from the provided map(s). We have provided further information about how you produce the map (See Appendix A on website <https://research.csiro.au/extensiveprawnfarming/apply/> for assistance about how to produce the map). The Pilot location will be selected through the site suitability criteria.

## **G4 – Cultural clearance for site visit(s)**

It is essential to obtain the informed consent across each relevant clan group with authority to speak for Country on site that will be visited for short-listed EOI applicants. In the EOI application, it is important that you have outlined a plan in place about how to obtain relevant cultural site clearance. We understand that it may be difficult to confirm this cultural site clearance when the location of the site(s) visited are yet to be identified. We seek your willingness to help obtain relevant cultural site clearance for any site(s) that are chosen for visiting.

## **G5 – Readiness and capacity to run the Pilot**

In the EOI application, we ask that you describe the range of work carried that is relevant to this application and your capacity to provide contributions towards the initiative. This range of work could involve running an enterprise, building a program and/or attending training about business development. It would also be useful to know if you have any previous experience with the preparation of any business plans.



## **G6 – Cultural governance**

The complexities of different cultural governance systems in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities varies across northern Australia. Different cultures have different rules for how they govern and this gives rise to diversity in cultural governance. In the EOI application, questions are asked about the model of cultural governance in your area. Sometimes governance structures are legally incorporated; sometimes they remain informal and flexible. Details on the governance arrangements helps to understand where responsibilities are spread across different cross-cutting layers.

