

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF PEARL OYSTER FARM
LEASES**

by

Cygnnet Bay Pearl Consolidated Pty Ltd

Broome – Cape Villaret

October 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)**

APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF PEARL OYSTER FARM LEASES

Cygnet Bay Pearl Consolidated Pty Ltd

File Ref	1005/21
Date of Application	27 August 2021
General Location	Cape Villaret, Broome (see site plans below)
Area of Proposed Sites	Site 1: 1.05 square nautical miles Site 2: 0.14 square nautical miles
Proposed Species	Pearl Oyster (<i>Pinctada maxima</i>)
Culture Method	Surface and bottom longline culturing techniques
Other pearl farm leases (within 5 nautical miles)	Nil existing sites One proposed site – Maxima Pearling Company Pty Ltd
Further Information	Contact Lauren Wright at DPIRD Aquatic Resource Management on Lauren.Wright@dpiird.wa.gov.au

**Information provided by the applicant relevant to applications for the grant of
pearl oyster farm leases**
Cygnnet Bay Consolidated Pty Ltd

October 2021

Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Cygnnet Bay Consolidated Pty Ltd (Cygnnet Bay) for two pearl oyster farm lease sites.

Proposal

On 27 August 2021, Cygnnet Bay submitted applications to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for two pearl oyster farm lease sites. The two sites comprise an area of 1.05 and 0.14 nautical miles (see attached site plan).

Cygnnet Bay seeks to undertake culture, grow-out and harvest of *Pinctada maxima* pearl oysters which produce Western Australian South Sea Pearls and can also be harvested for pearl meat and mother of pearl shell.

Source of Stock and Methods

In the Western Australian *Pinctada maxima* Fishery, pearl oysters can be sourced by licence holders from the wild or grown in land-based hatcheries.

Surface and bottom culture long-line techniques will be used on the proposed site 1 and bottom culture long-line techniques only will be used on the proposed site 2.

Environmental Considerations

The proposed area has been surveyed by using divers to drift across the area for the length of proposed site. Each drift was achieved in a 5 minute period. The average depth of the area is 15 metres. This information was used together with high resolution echo soundings to give an accurate lay out of the site.

Benthic habitat

The benthic substrate within the proposed lease areas consists largely of light garden bottom with small areas of shell grit and sand.

Water movement/circulation

The water movement through the area is variable, depending on the stage and aptitude of the tide. The area is one of high tidal movement with the area flushed with each change in tide. The flood tide moves in a south easterly direction and ebbs in a north westerly direction. The tidal range is up to 9m. The tide direction become variable as you move off the eastern boundary towards the coast.

Important biological resources

Some pelagic sea life is seen in the area as well as demersal sea life recorded on the sea floor. The area is not a notable area for breeding or feeding of any species.

Potential Environmental impacts

As the sea floor is light garden composition, there will be very little environmental impact on the sea floor.

The proposed Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park is the closest marine park over six nautical miles away to the North East.

Proposed infrastructure

The proposed site will be serviced on day trips by a pearling vessel from Broome. It is the intention of the applicant that only bottom culturing techniques will be adopted at this proposed lease. Anchors and weights will be installed by divers on the sea floor that the bottom long line hardware are attached to; lines can be removed and replaced with new ones without disturbing the anchoring system or the attached organisms that will grow over time.

Visual amenity

Due to the minimal infrastructure required there will be very low visual impact to those in the area. Site 1 will use minimal surface infrastructure. The only visible infrastructure will be black 4 x 400mm floatation buoys and any boundary markers/lighting enforced by the Department of Transport. Site 2 will use subsurface infrastructure only.

Public access

The proposed site is located in a low usage area and away from any known shipping channels and as a result will pose no navigational problems for vessels using the area. The lease will be marked with appropriate marker buoyage.

Pearl oyster farm leases are non-exclusive, meaning there is no impediment to other users traversing the farm lease or using the area for fishing or other recreational activities, provided culture infrastructure is not interfered with.

It is not anticipated that the proposed site area will have any significant environmental impact on the surrounding area due to the above conditions and the adoption of the pearling industry 'best management practice'.

Benthic image
Site 1



Site 2:



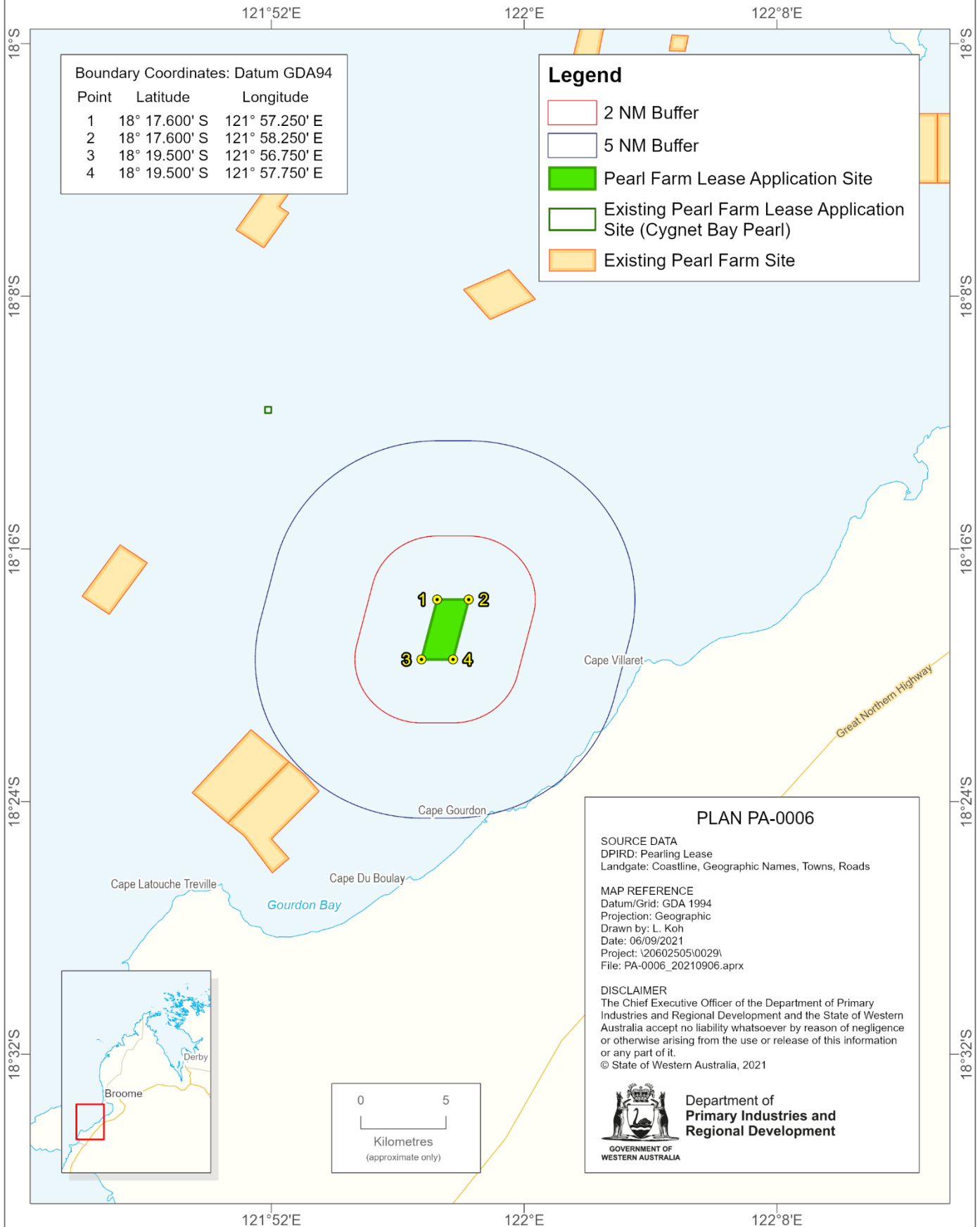


Tidal flow



BROOME - CAPE VILLARET SITE B CYGNET BAY PEARL CONSOLIDATED PTY LTD PEARL FARM LEASE APPLICATION - SITE PLAN

ALL THAT PORTION OF TERRITORIAL WATER WITHIN THE BOUNDARY DESCRIBED AND COLOURED GREEN ON THE PLAN BELOW COMPRISING A TOTAL AREA OF 1.800 SQUARE NAUTICAL MILES



BROOME - CAPE VILLARET SITE C

CYGNET BAY PEARL CONSOLIDATED PTY LTD

PEARL FARM LEASE APPLICATION - SITE PLAN

ALL THAT PORTION OF TERRITORIAL WATER WITHIN THE BOUNDARY DESCRIBED AND COLOURED GREEN ON THE PLAN BELOW COMPRISING A TOTAL AREA OF 0.038 SQUARE NAUTICAL MILES

