



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

The Development of Northern Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 19 March 2015

Chair: The Hon Warren Entsch MP

Deputy Chair: Hon Alannah MacTiernan MP

—New Inquiry—

Fishing for Answers: Opportunities for Expanding the Aquaculture Industry in Northern Australia

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee has commenced an inquiry into opportunities for expanding the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia—parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland which lie above the Tropic of Capricorn.

The potential for aquaculture was raised in the Government's pre-policy planning document, the *Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia* which noted that there was 'considerable interest from investors in developing more land for agriculture, establishing new meat processing facilities and aquaculture production.'

The inquiry into opportunities for expanding aquaculture in Northern Australia will examine:

- commercialising new innovation;
- developing new aquaculture projects and products; and
- seeking out new markets.

In its September 2014, *Pivot North* Report, the Committee recommended that the Government facilitate the development of the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia by improving the regulatory framework.

Committee Chair, the Hon Warren Entsch MP, stated: 'The Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation has identified about 594 000 hectares in Queensland, 528 000 hectares in the Northern Territory, and 516 000 hectares in Western Australia as being suitable for aquaculture. This is an area greater than the combined land area of Brisbane, Darwin and Perth and demonstrates there is significant potential for farming sea and freshwater products along coastal regions of Northern Australia.'

'This inquiry will allow the Committee to examine in greater depth, an industry which has the potential to significantly contribute to growing the economy and improving employment opportunities in the region,' Mr Entsch said.

Written submissions from interested individuals and organisations are invited by **COB Friday, 1 May 2015**. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged [online](#) using a My Parliament account. Please do not send submissions directly to the Committee's email inbox.

Guidance on preparing a submission is available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jscna.

The Committee is expecting to conduct public hearings and inspections across Northern Australia as part of its inquiry.

For media comment: Please contact Heather Beck, Media Adviser to the Committee Chair the Hon Warren Entsch MP on (02) 6277 4088 or 0427 585 668.

For inquiry information: Please contact the committee secretariat:
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