

## INFORMATION FOR CONSULTATION

### Application for the Variation of an Aquaculture Licence and for the Grant of an Aquaculture Lease

#### Global Barramundi PTY LTD Lake Argyle

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<b>File Ref</b>	<b>fA1228922</b>
<b>Date of Application</b>	29 January 2025
<b>General Location</b>	Lake Argyle
<b>Total Area of Proposed New Sites</b>	22.103 hectares over 3 sites in Lake Argyle and 1.016ha at a land-based site.
<b>Species</b>	Barramundi ( <i>Lates calcarifer</i> ), Sleepy Cod ( <i>Oxyeleotris lineolata</i> ), and Sooty Grunter ( <i>Hephaestus jenkinsi</i> )
<b>Culture Method</b>	Sea pens at the lake sites Tanks at the land-based site
<b>Other Sites</b> (within 5 n mile)	N/A
<b>Consultation Period</b>	20 May 2025 – 17 June 2025
<b>Further Information</b>	Contact Clara Alvarez at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on <a href="mailto:aquaculture@dpird.wa.gov.au">aquaculture@dpird.wa.gov.au</a> .

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## Proposal

Global Barramundi holds two aquaculture licences; IDCA 1360 which authorises aquaculture at one land-based site and three sites in Lake Argyle, and IDCA 1631 which authorises aquaculture at an additional water-based site in Lake Argyle. Currently, the licences only authorise the aquaculture of barramundi.

Three of the water-based sites are situated within waters vested in the Water Corporation and one is within an area subject to Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) tenure arrangements. These sites pre-date the requirement for appropriate tenure within the *Fish Resources Management Act* 1994, and consequently no tenure arrangements are in place. The land-based site is subject to a tenure agreement with DPLH.

On 29 January 2025, Global Barramundi made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to vary IDCA 1360 and IDCA 1631. Global Barramundi also made an application for an aquaculture lease for the proposed new water-based sites.

The application reflects Global Barramundi's intention to diversify its operations to culture two locally occurring species, Sleepy Cod and Sooty Grunter. The application also rectifies issues with the suitability of the current sites based on the authority to issue tenure in the area.

Subject to granting, the variation will facilitate movement of the sites out of the Water Corporation Reserve and into an area of Reserve vested with the Minister for Fisheries (Minister) for the purpose of aquaculture. This is an area where the Minister has authority to grant an aquaculture lease, which would allow Global Barramundi to occupy the site.

The variation application proposes the following:

### IDCA 1360 (Land-based site and three water-based sites):

- Removal of the water-based sites from within the Water Corporation Reserve;
- Significant reduction in the land-based site licenced area to align with DPLH tenure;
- Addition of Sooty Grunter and Sleepy Cod species.

### IDCA 1631 (One Water Based Site):

- Removal of the existing site and addition of three new sites in the Reserve vested in the Minister;
- Significant reduction in the size of the sites; and
- Addition of Sooty Grunter and Sleepy Cod species.

Subject to approval, the outcome of the variations will be:

### IDCA 1360

- One land-based site authorised for the aquaculture of barramundi, sooty grunter and sleepy cod.
- Tenure: Lease with DPLH.

## IDCA 1631

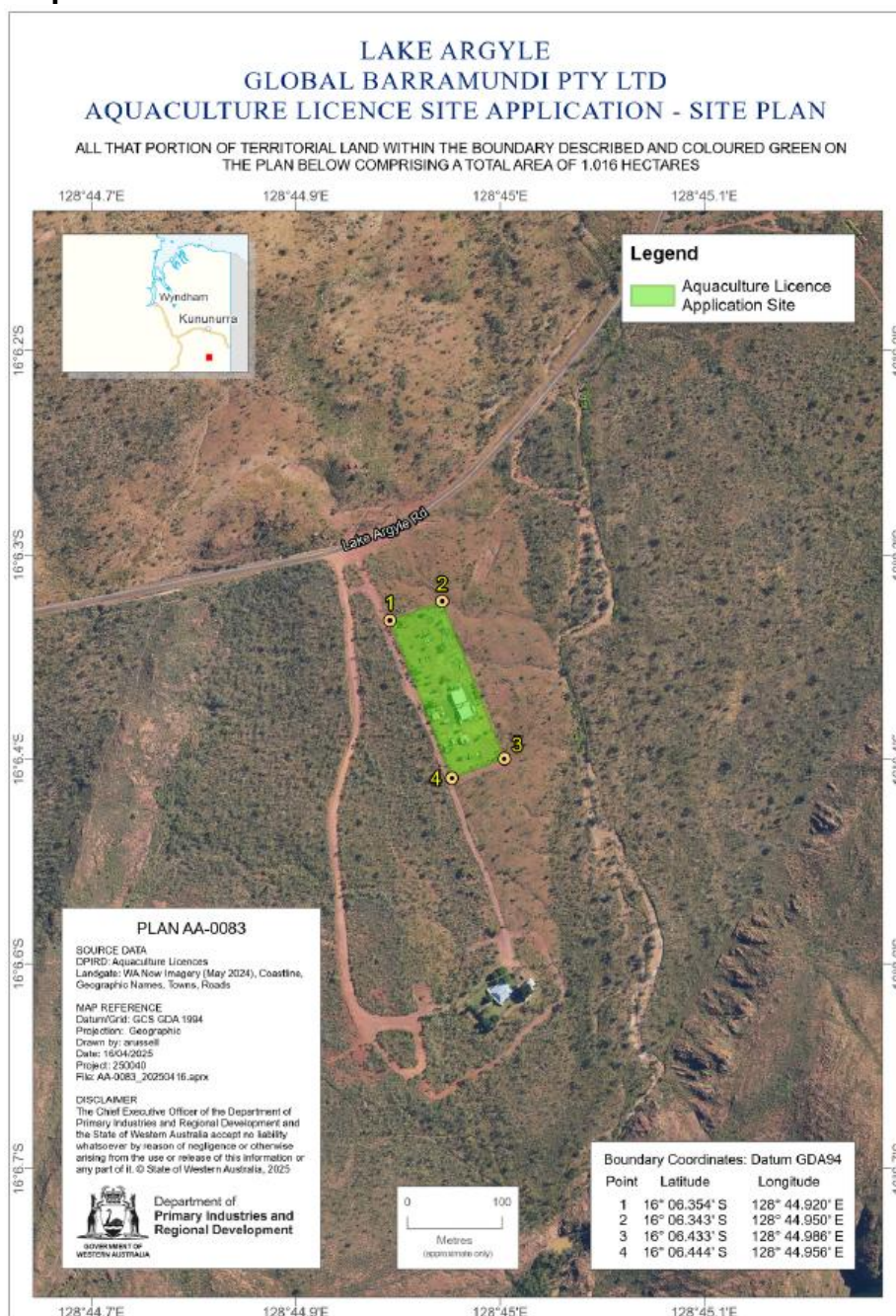
- Three small water-based sites authorised for the aquaculture of barramundi, sooty grunter and sleep cod.
- Tenure: Aquaculture Lease with the Minister for Fisheries.

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## Location

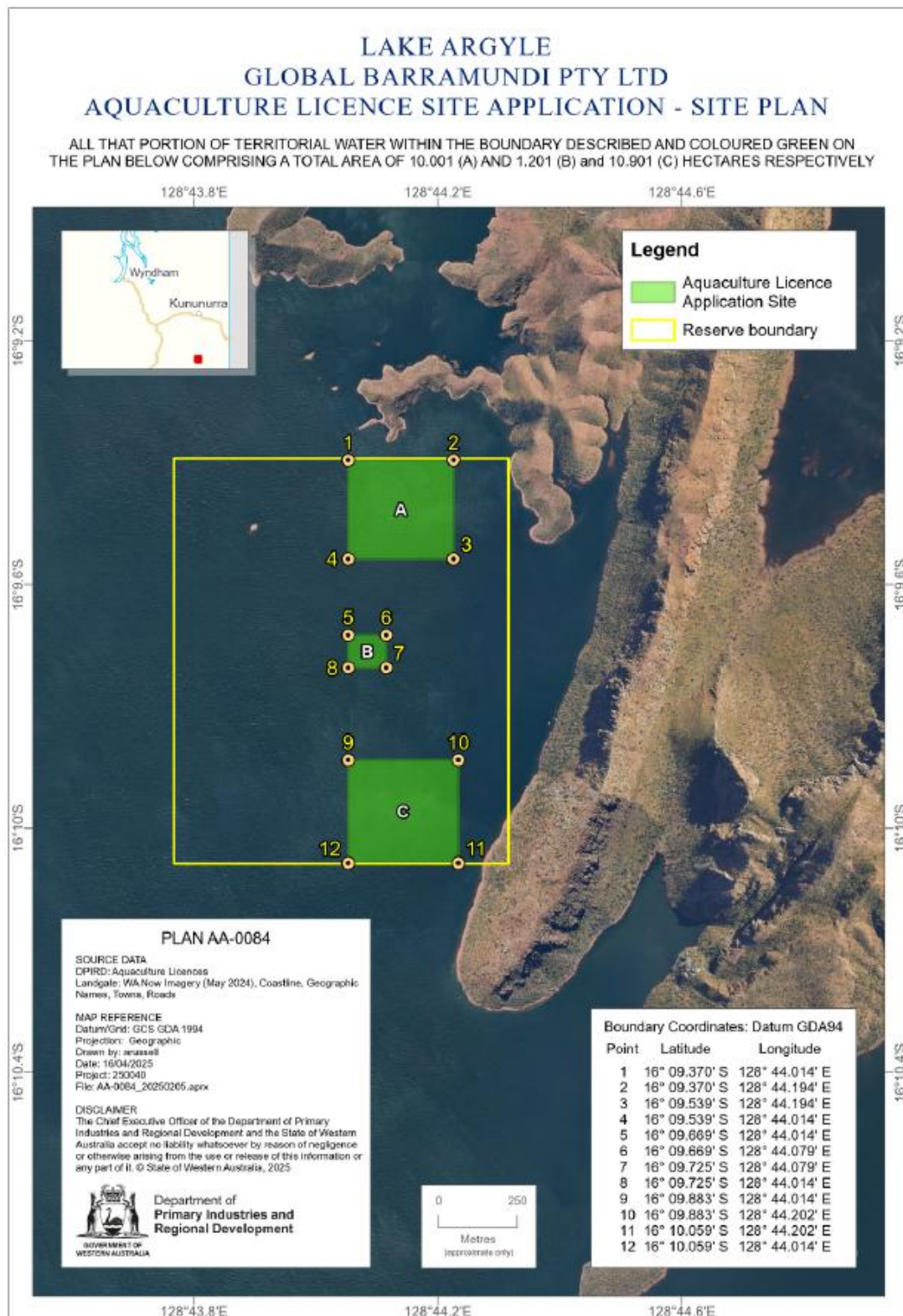
- The land-based site (IDCA 1360) will be reduced from 10.301 hectares to 1.016 hectares.
- The proposed water based sites (IDCA 1631) comprise an area of 10.001, 1.201 and 10.901 hectares.
- Site maps are provided below.

## Proposed Site Plan – Land-Based Site IDCA1360





## Proposed Site Plan – Water-Based Sites IDCA1631



### Source of Stock

Global Barramundi proposes to collect sleepy cod and sooty grunter broodstock from Lake Argyle under a Ministerial Exemption. An application for the collection a small number of broodstock will be made following a decision on the variation application.

## Methods

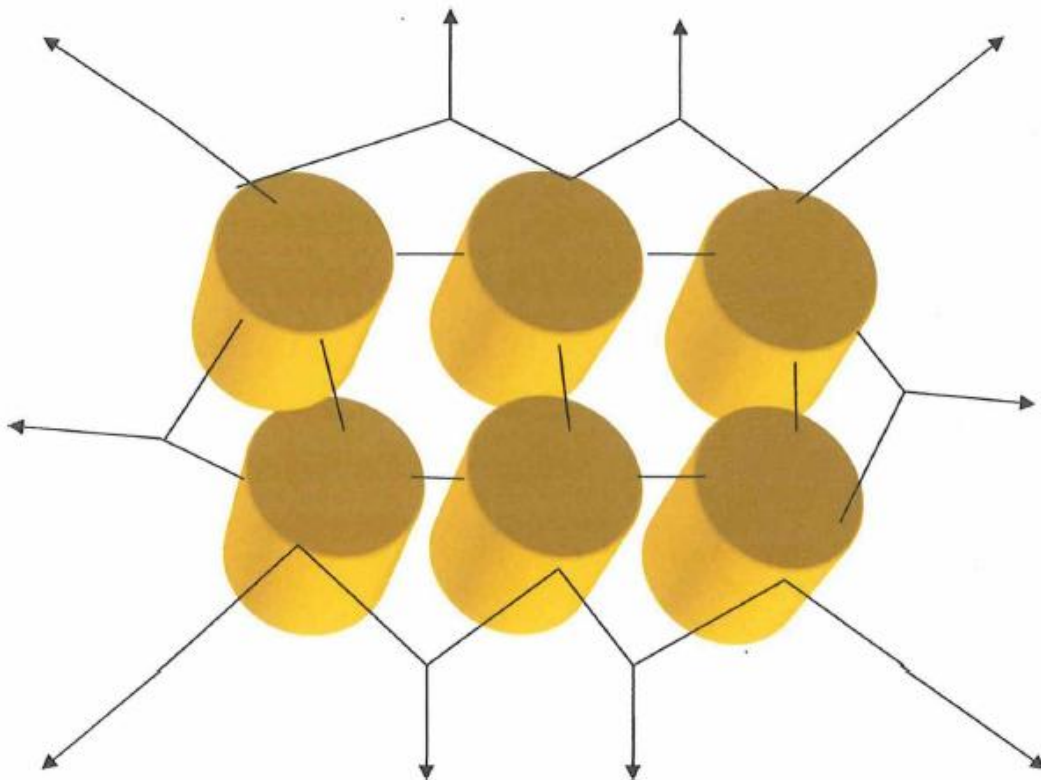
The land-based site will be used as small scale hatchery comprising of a shed containing a number of tanks and the associated equipment. Biomass of all live fish kept at the land-based site will be limited by licence conditions to less than 100kg. The site does not currently have any water intake or discharge pipes to Lake Argyle. Any water used on the site will be carted to site from the lake and any waste water would be disposed of on site via soak wells or irrigation.

Broodstock would be brought to the land-based site, spawned, and their progeny reared in the tanks until large enough to transfer to the water-based sites.

Once they reach a suitable size, fish will be grown out in the water-based sites in low-profile sea pens. Biomass of all live fish kept at the water-based will be limited by licence conditions to less than 1000kg.

The pens will be anchored using admiralty type anchors. They will be designed to leave a minimum spacing of 5m between the cage bottom and the lake floor.

Pens are constructed using Galvanised steel mesh, 3.15mm wire diameter 25mm x 25mm square welded mesh. Bird nets will be placed over the tops of pens to prevent predation by birds.



***Proposed mooring system for grow out pens***

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## **Management and Environmental Monitoring**

Global Barramundi has an existing Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which was prepared to reflect a considerably larger scale of operation than what is proposed in this variation.

With regard for above, environmental and biosecurity impacts of Global Barramundi's proposed operations can be managed through conditions on the aquaculture licence and lease, rather than a MEMP. This will be a clearer, more practical and effective means of undertaking compliance on operations.

In this case, the CEO can exercise discretion and exempt the applicant from the requirement for a MEMP.

Subject to approval, a Ministerial Exemption for the collection of broodstock will also be subject to conditions that address biosecurity and environmental risks.

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## **Risks**

The proposed aquaculture activity and its small footprint (a total of 22.103 hectares across three water-based sites) poses no significant environmental impact.

Conditions have been developed to ensure that only locally sourced broodstock are to be used, that no water is discharged from the facility land-based into Lake Argyle or other waterways and to limit total biomass of stock grown under the proposed licences.

The proposed species occur naturally in Lake Argyle. Given that all juveniles produced for grow-out will be the progeny of endemic broodstock, the risk of the introduction of disease is low.

The reduced footprint and relocation to an area of Reserve created for the purpose of aquaculture significantly reduces conflict with other users.

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