



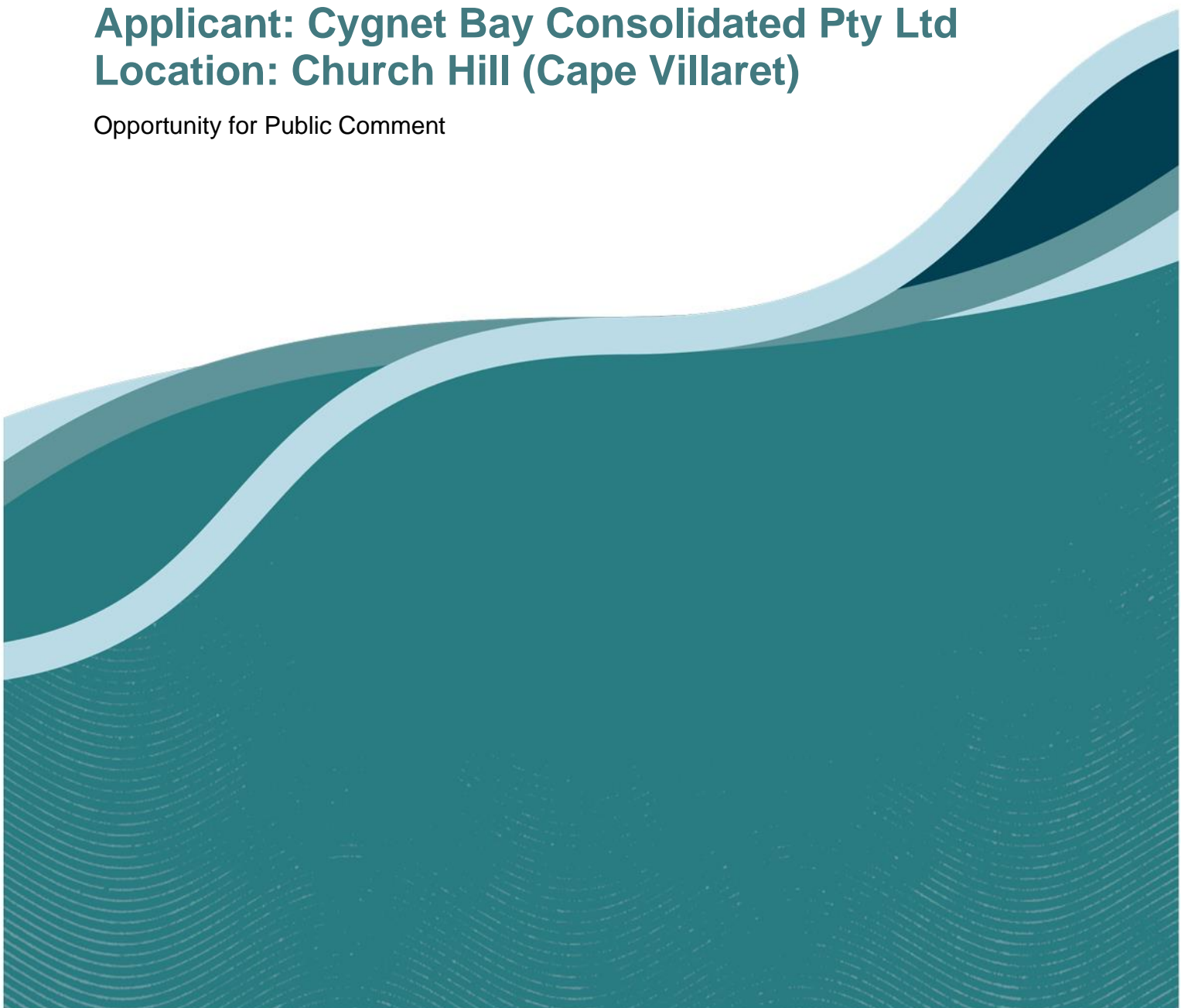
Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Application for the Grant of a Pearl Oyster Farm Lease

Applicant: Cygnet Bay Consolidated Pty Ltd
Location: Church Hill (Cape Villaret)

Opportunity for Public Comment



Key Information

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the department) received a competent application for the grant of a new pearl oyster farm lease. Key information regarding the application is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of key information within the pearl oyster farm lease application

Department file reference	fA1034797
Applicant	Cygnets Bay Consolidated Pty Ltd (Cygnets Bay)
Date of application	18 December 2023
Application	For the grant of a new pearl oyster farm lease
Proposed name of proposed pearl oyster farm lease	Church Hill (Cape Villaret)
General location of proposed pearl oyster farm lease	Cape Villaret, Broome
Area of proposed pearl oyster farm lease	1.492 square nautical miles (nm ²)
Proposed species	Pearl Oyster (<i>Pinctada maxima</i>)
Culture method	Subsurface and bottom culture. Longlines
Proximity to existing pearl oyster farm leases	Cygnets Bay holds a pearl oyster farm lease (Cape Villaret B) within 5 nm of the proposed site. No other companies hold pearl oyster farm leases or holding sites within 5 nm of the proposed site.
Further information	Contact Amie Steele amie.steele@dpird.wa.gov.au

Summary of Information Provided by the Applicant

Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, community, industry and other external stakeholders regarding the Cygnet Bay pearl oyster farm lease application.

Proposal

On 18 December 2023, Cygnet Bay applied to the department for the grant of a new pearl oyster farm lease, covering an area of 1.492 nm² (see attached site plan).

Cygnet 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 WA Pearl Oyster Fishery, pearl oysters can be sourced by licence holders from the wild or grown in land-based hatcheries.

Sub-surface and bottom culture long-line techniques will be used on the proposed pearl oyster farm lease.

Environmental Considerations

The area beneath the proposed pearl oyster farm lease has been surveyed by drift dive, using 10-minute drift periods. The average depth of the area is 12 m and survey results are summarised in the following sections.

Benthic Habitat

The substrate is predominantly hard sand, shell grit and light garden bottom, depicted in Figure 1 to Figure 3.



Figure 1: Benthic image 1



Figure 2: Benthic image 2

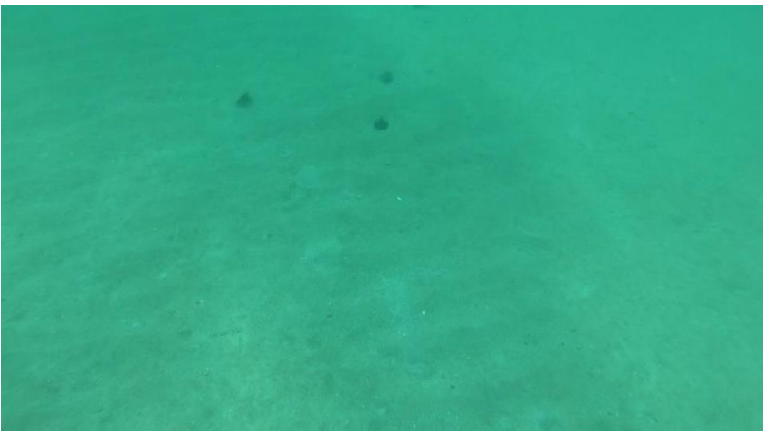


Figure 3: Benthic image 3

Water Movement/Circulation

There is variable water movement in the area dependent on tides and aptitude. Flood tide moves south-easterly and ebbs north-westerly, with a tidal range of up to 9m. Tidal direction is variable toward the eastern boundary.

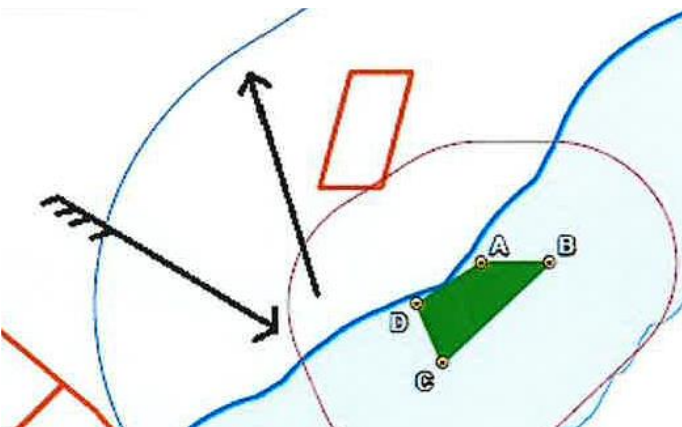


Figure 4 - Tidal flow

Important Biological Resources

The area is not a notable breeding area for any species.

Potential Environmental Impacts

Pearl oyster farm leases have negligible impact to the environment and ecosystem due to lack of interaction with the benthic environment and lack of inputs (i.e. no feed is used).

Proposed Infrastructure

Anchors and weights will be installed to fasten longline and mooring systems. Longlines can be removed and replaced without disturbing the anchoring system and attached organisms.

Subsurface longlines will be approximately 100 m in length and will sit approximately 4m under the ocean's surface.

Visual Amenity

Boundary buoyage marking and lighting will provide minimal visual impact. The only visible infrastructure will be flotation boys (black, 400mm) that support the subsurface longlines and Category 1 boundary marking and lighting as proposed in accordance with the guidance statement *Evaluating and determining categories of marking and lighting for aquaculture and pearling leases and licences 2019*.

Public Access

The proposed site is in a low usage area, away from known shipping channels. It is not expected to cause navigational problems for vessels using the area. The site will be appropriately marked.

Map of Proposed Site

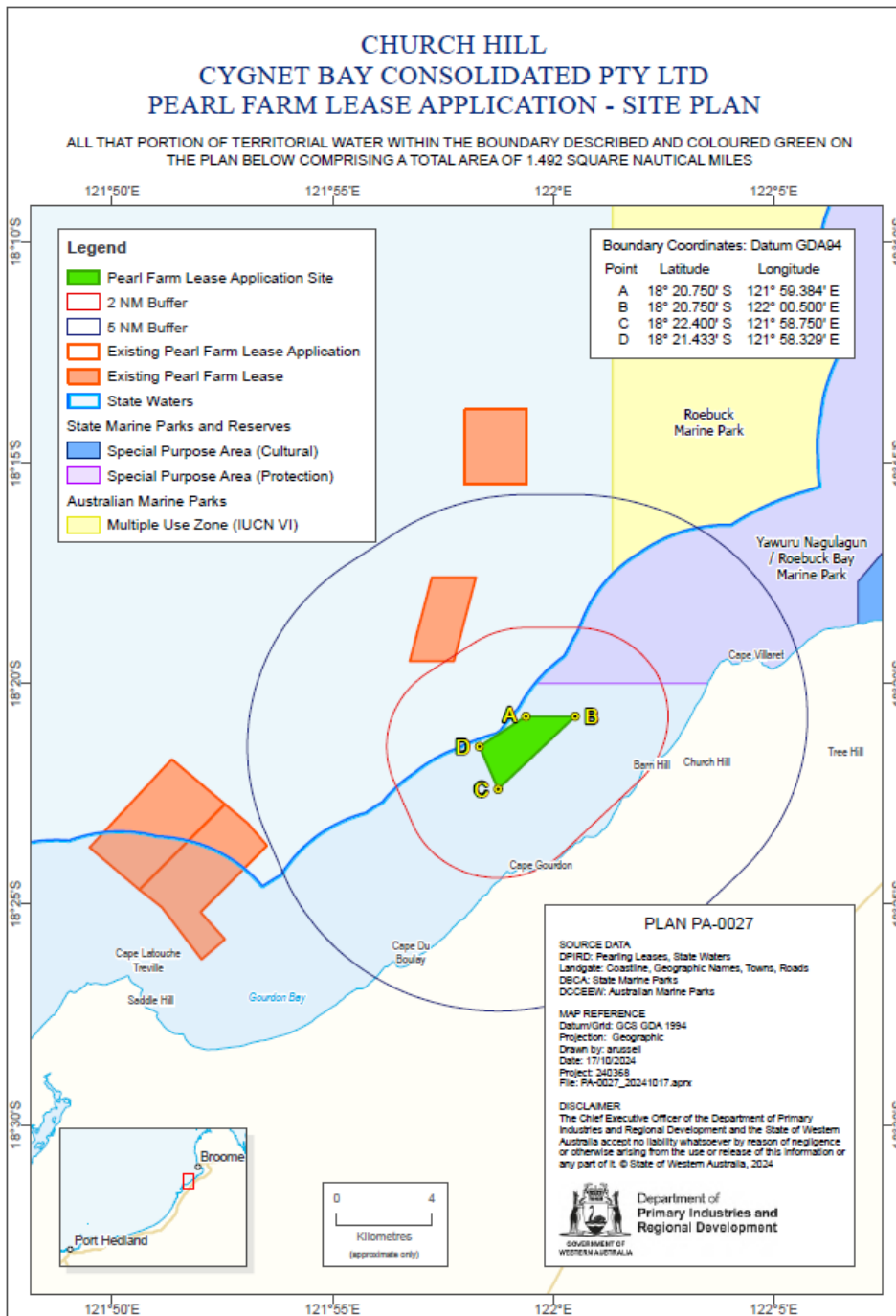


Figure 5: Map of proposed pearl oyster farm lease location

Important Disclaimer

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