

**APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE  
LICENCE**

**by**

**Wylie Bay Abalone Pty Ltd**

**Esperance, WA**

**February 2023**

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

**APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE**

**Wylie Bay Abalone Pty Ltd  
Esperance WA**

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<b>File Ref</b>	fA671243
<b>Date of Application</b>	7/09/2022
<b>General Location</b>	Wylie Bay (Esperance), WA
<b>Total Area of existing Site</b>	Two sites comprising 922 hectares
<b>Authorised Species</b>	Greenlip Abalone ( <i>Haliotis laevis</i> )
<b>Proposed species</b>	various species of seaweed
<b>Culture Method</b>	Grow out using longlines
<b>Other Sites (within 5 n mile)</b>	Rare Foods Australia Ltd (in application)
<b>Further Information</b>	Contact Chris Marsh at Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (08) 6551 4351 or <a href="mailto:chris.marsh@dpiird.wa.gov.au">chris.marsh@dpiird.wa.gov.au</a> .

# Information provided by the applicant relevant to an application for the variation of an aquaculture licence

Wylie Bay Abalone Pty Ltd

February 2023

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## Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Wylie Bay Abalone Pty Ltd (WBA) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

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## Background

On 3 May 2017, WBA was granted Aquaculture Licence No. 1650 in Wylie Bay, Esperance WA, which authorises the aquaculture of Greenlip Abalone (*Haliotis laevigata*).

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## Proposal

WBA, in collaboration with Canopy Blue Pty Ltd (Canopy Blue) and the Wernberg Lab at the University of Western Australia, propose to conduct a trial of seaweed aquaculture within its existing approved aquaculture site in Wylie Bay.

WBA has made an application to vary its Licence to add the following seaweed species to its Licence:

- *Ecklonia radiata*
- *Caulerpa obscura*
- *Caulerpa flexilis*
- *Asparagopsis armata*; and
- *Ulva lactuca*.

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## Source of Stock and Methods

The site will consist of a maximum of 10 small culture systems (10 m x 10 m) that will be composed of submerged seeding lines, arranged in a panel structure for the grow out of seaweed (refer to Figure 1). Buoys will be placed at each panel corner to hold the seeding lines approximately one metre off the seabed. Weighted concrete blocks will also be placed at each corner of the panel to hold the structure in place.

The submerged panel structures will be positioned over sandy substrate at a minimum depth of 10 metres to avoid impact on the benthic environment.

WBA seeks to obtain fragments of colonies of the proposed seaweed species from existing aquaculture gear within the licensed aquaculture site. Subject to grant of the variation application, new licence conditions will be imposed to authorise the collection of seaweed seedstock.

WBA has also applied for a Ministerial Exemption to source seedstock from the wild. If approved, the Exemption will be subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.

The locally collected broodstock is proposed to be taken to the culture systems installed for the purpose of grow-out within the licensed area, as per the licence conditions. Some of the collected broodstock may be taken to the Wernberg Laboratory at University of Western Australia for cultivation.

## Diagram

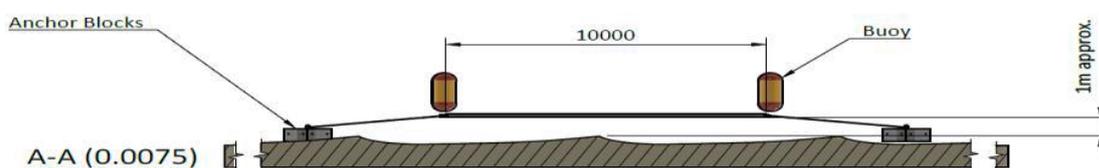
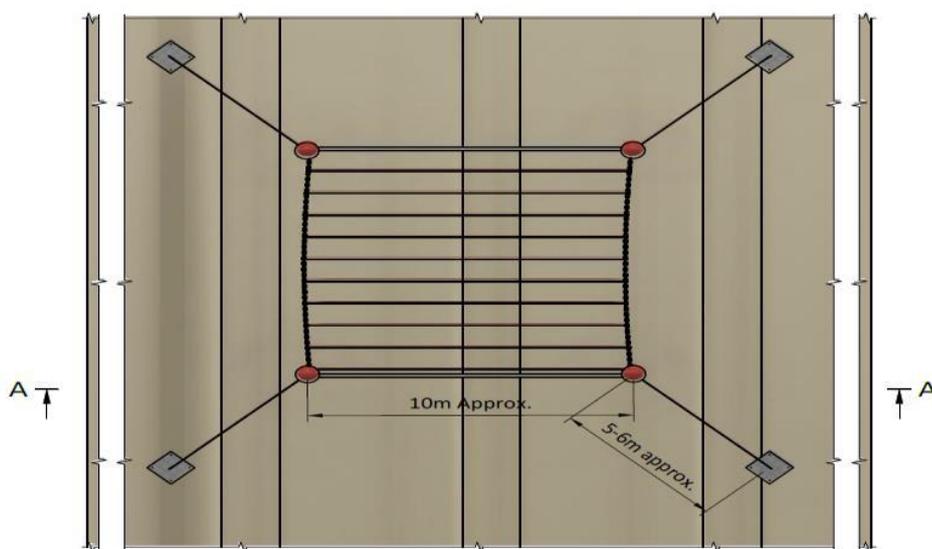
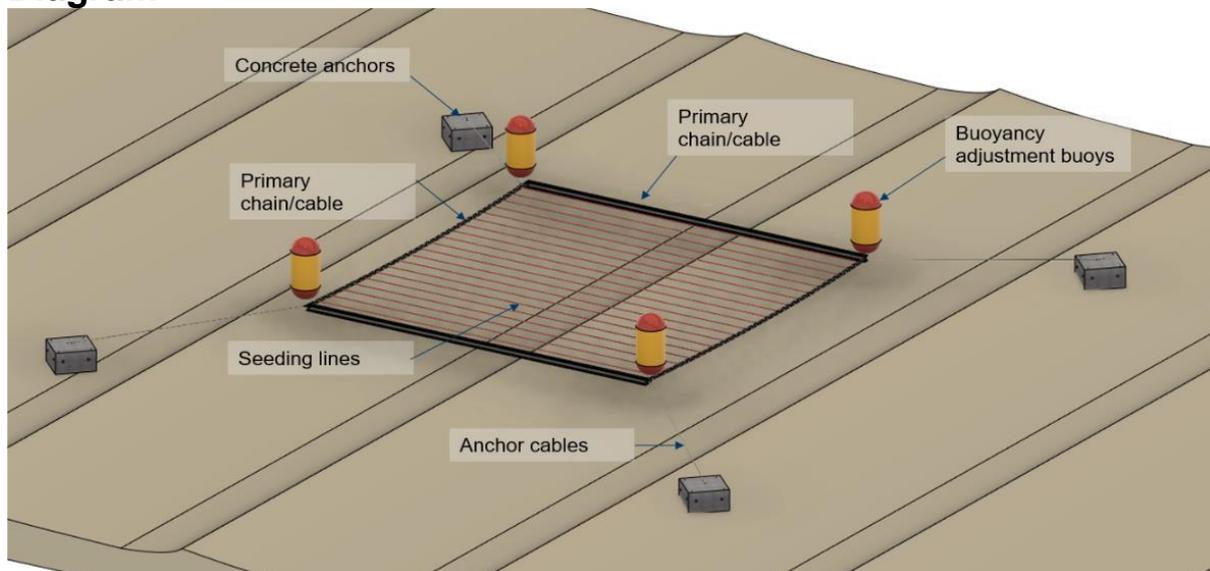


Figure 1:  
Proposed Culture Panel System

## Management and Environmental Monitoring

The biosecurity risk of this project is considered low due to the proposed species originating from local waters. As seaweed produce no faecal material and require no supplementary feed, it is unlikely that the water or sediment quality will be impacted by the operation.

Seaweed broodstock will be obtained from existing gear within WBA's licensed aquaculture site in Wylie Bay or collected from the wild locally through Ministerial Exemption to ensure that no exotic pathogens are introduced to the area.

New licence conditions will be imposed to authorise the collection of seedstock of proposed species. Collection of broodstock and seedstock is subject to reports being made to DPIRD and biosecurity measures as described in the approved Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP).

WBA has submitted an updated MEMP, which includes biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency responses in the event that a disease outbreak occurs. Under the MEMP, the proponent will continue to implement management strategies to protect marine fauna from entanglement and other interactions. The risk of disease and marine mammal entanglement through seaweed aquaculture is considered low.

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## **Risks**

The proposed aquaculture activity poses no significant environmental issues, with identified risks proposed to be mitigated by WBA's MEMP.

The proposed species of seaweed occur naturally in the surrounding environment, therefore the risk of the introduction of disease is low.

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