



# Project Sea Dragon

## Stage 1 Legune Grow-out Facility

### Protecting the environment at Legune Station

Protecting the environment is a core priority for Seafarms, which is proposing to build a prawn aquaculture farm at Legune Station in the Northern Territory.

Legune Station was specifically chosen as a location due to its geographic isolation from existing prawn aquaculture farms, its existing agricultural land use and the absence of sensitive reef marine environments.

The Project will be staged to facilitate an adaptive management approach. Stage 1 will establish three prawn farms, which include 1120 hectares of grow-out ponds. Each farm has between 36 to 40 10 hectare ponds.

The Stage 1 Grow-out Facility is about two percent of Legune Station and has been deliberately located away from areas of conservation significance. To minimise potential impacts the Project footprint covers largely grassed areas currently used for cattle operations.

#### Water birds

The Legune coastal floodplain has been identified as a site of conservation significance because it supports internationally and nationally significant numbers of some waterbird species, including several shorebird species.

Seafarms conducted an extensive terrestrial fauna and avifauna field survey program over 12 months between May 2015 and May 2016, focussing on any protected species. A team of eight highly experienced biologists spent more than 130 days surveying estuarine and freshwater habitats at Legune Station, including Osman's Lake, Alligator Creek, Forsyth Creek and Bob's Creek.

#### Survey results

The surveys identified that:

- none of the freshwater habitats important for waterbirds will be cleared as part of the project
- the grow-out ponds are located in areas that are not used by waterbirds during the dry season

- Turtle Point, which does provide important habitat for migratory shorebirds, will not be impacted by the project as it is about 25 kilometres away from the project site.

The results of the assessment concluded that the construction and operation of the project will not result in a significant impact to nationally important aggregations of waterbirds, or other listed threatened and migratory species under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

For more information on Project Sea Dragon go to [www.seafarms.com.au/project-sea-dragon](http://www.seafarms.com.au/project-sea-dragon).

