

# SEAFARMS TAPS MARKET FOR PRAWN FARM WORK

**JENNE BRAMMER**

Aquaculture producer Seafarms will tap the market for \$105 million to start building one of the world's biggest black tiger prawn farms.

Up to \$90m will be raised over a two-tranche placement to institutional and sophisticated investors at 5.5¢ per share.

Alongside the placement, a share purchase plan is being of-

fered to eligible retail shareholders to raise \$15m.

Seafarms said the funds would be used to start construction of stage one of its Project Sea Dragon in northern Australia.

Seafarm's biggest shareholder and chairman Ian Trahar will invest \$20m and convert all loans worth about \$15.2m into equity on the same terms of the placement, strengthening the company's balance sheet.

AAM Investment Group, which owns Legune Station in the Northern Territory — where Project Sea Dragon will be located — intends to take part in the placement through its Pastoral Development Trust.

Project Sea Dragon involves a processing plant at Kununurra, and the prawn farm at Legune Station.

All necessary approvals and permits are in place and contrac-

up efforts to slow climate change and cut out fossil fuels entirely.

tors have been selected, Mr Trahar said.

Seafarms is at the start of creating a significant industrial-scale food production business.

"The genetics we have spent many years developing will result in a product with true premium characteristics both in terms of size and price," he said.

Seafarms is in a trading halt. Shares last traded at 8.6¢.