

# The Prawn Report



## Monthly report of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association

February 2009

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

by Helen Jenkins

What a tumultuous month February has been so far. Floods in far North Queensland and Victoria on fire. Our thoughts go to all those affected and I would urge those who can to support the victims.

Below is an extract from an email that I received this week – if you know of someone that this may assist please pass on.

*"..... if any of your readers have been affected by the bushfires or floods, they may find this business.gov.au feature useful."*

[www.business.gov.au/Business+Entry+Point/News/Bushfire+and+flood+assistance.htm](http://www.business.gov.au/Business+Entry+Point/News/Bushfire+and+flood+assistance.htm)

Other useful links for assistance include:

[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/home ENA HTML.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/home_ENA_HTML.htm)

[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/4789\\_8770 ENA HTML.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/4789_8770_ENA_HTML.htm)

[www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/30\\_10003 ENA HTML.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/30_10003_ENA_HTML.htm)

[www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au)

### APFA & ABA BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Australian Prawn Farmers (APFA) and Australian Barrumundi Farmers Association (ABFA) bi-annual Conference will be held from July 29-30 2009 at Jupiters Casino, Townsville. The casino is holding 40 rooms for conference attendees: they have 30 rooms available at \$205.00 per night and 10 rooms available for \$175.00 per night. If you would like to book a room early please ring 07 4722 2333 or 1800 079 210 and quote 339965 to ensure special rates on offer for the conference participants.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER TO FARMS

The QAIF meeting on February 4 was attended by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) Queensland who asked if the APFA could alert farmers that existing farm Development Approvals expire in 2011. Please check your licence approval. DPI&F will be conducting on farm assessments. Farms are urged to apply early for their renewal. Once the renewals are issued they will be issued for in-perpetuity. For more information, contact the APFA office on 07 3837 4747.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Seafood CRC has several programs on offer for members

of the CRC: Phd, Honours and Masters Projects and students – submissions close March 16 2009. Please contact Helen Jenkins on 07 3837 4747 or [info@apfa.com.au](mailto:info@apfa.com.au).

### ENTREPRENEUR'S PROGRAM

The Seafood Success Entrepreneur's Program – do you have an idea for a new product or process that will add value to seafood or reduce waste product, open a new market for Aussie seafood or to improve consumer's seafood experience. If you do and are prepared to commit to one weekend over 8 months. Applications close Friday February 20 2009. For more information, contact Jamie O'Brien on 07 3837 4747 or email [jamie@qff.org.au](mailto:jamie@qff.org.au).

### ANNUAL SEAFOOD WORKSHOP

The 5th Annual Seafood and Processing Preservation Workshop will take place from Wednesday April 1 2009 in Auckland, NZ. For all CRC program details contact Emily Downes – 08 8201 7652 or email [emily.downes@seafoodcrc.com](mailto:emily.downes@seafoodcrc.com)

### EPA CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

EPA changes to environmental management legislation have come into effect from January 1 2009. The EPA is conducting workshops in your region. Please register prior to February 27 and for more information, contact 1300 130 372.

Cairns	March 23
Brisbane	March 25
Mackay	March 27
Rockhampton	March 30
Brisbane	April 1
Townsville	April 3
Brisbane	April 6
Gladstone	April 8

### QFF ANNUAL CONFERENCE – SUSTAIN 2009

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) 2009 Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday May 13 at the Sebel and Citigate, Brisbane. The focus this year will draw upon issues relating to sustainable agriculture, going on the success of our 2008 Conference. Please keep this date free in your diary. More information will be available shortly, or contact Jamie O'Brien on 07 3837 4747 or [jamie@qff.org.au](mailto:jamie@qff.org.au).

## **RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY WITHSTANDS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

Australia's \$200 billion a year agri-food industry is well placed to withstand the national economic downturn and could be a source of jobs for hundreds of workers displaced from other industries, AgriFood Skills Australia said this week. CEO Arthur Blewitt, said AgriFood Skills Australia was getting a strong and consistent message during its current round of national consultations – with agriculture and food industries saying they were 'very well placed to withstand the economic downturn affecting so many other industries'. A national survey is available from the AgriFood website at [www.agrifoodskills.net.au](http://www.agrifoodskills.net.au).

## **GRANTS TO HELP FARMERS MEET CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Federal Government says it is continuing to help primary industries prepare for climate change with applications now open for FarmReady grants to reimburse the cost of training courses. Those in the farming, fisheries and forestry sectors could now apply to reclaim up to \$1,500 a year for attending approved training courses. The FarmReady funding is available under the Climate Change Adjustment Program, which aims to help primary producers with professional advice, training and re-establishment grants. For more information go to [www.farmready.gov.au](http://www.farmready.gov.au) or contact 1800 087 670.

## **NEW WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY WEBSITE ON AIR**

The new Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) website is now live, and can be found at [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au). The new website is the first step for how WHSQ aims to package information in a more user-friendly way to ensure all Queenslanders have the right information at the right time to help make their workplaces healthier and safer.

## **VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE VICTIMS/FARMERS NEED URGENT SUPPORT- VFF**

More than 170 people across Victoria have lost their livelihoods this week to fires including 750 homes, with these figures expected to rise within the coming weeks. The toll on farmers has been high with tens of thousands of stock destroyed together with property, assets and farm infrastructure. The Victorian Farmers' Federation is undertaking the role of assisting with the emergency relief effort following the fires over the weekend. Those able to assist with the donations of fodder, co-ordination of agistment and reconstruction of fencing and other critical farm infrastructure are encouraged to contact the VFF. To donate, go to [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au) or via phone on 1300 882 833. The VFF's website also contains a list of key contacts as well as other relevant websites and information.

## **CHEMCLEAR COLLECTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2009**

ChemClear is a national program that collects and destroys obsolete agricultural and veterinary chemicals on behalf of the chemical manufacturing industry in Australia. ChemClear is managed by Agsafe Limited and is a not for profit service. Primary Producers wanting to take advantage of this opportunity are required to take an inventory of their unwanted chemicals including:

- Manufacturer's name; product name; Size of container

(eg 20lt); Estimate of chemical lt/kg remaining.

- If the chemical is unknown information is needed on:
  - o Size of the container (eg 20lt);
  - o Estimate of chemical lt/kg remaining;
  - o Any identifiable features

These chemicals are often highly toxic and they can be a time bomb ticking away in the corner of a shed at risk of spillage, contamination, or harmful to animals and humans. The service can be utilised for change of use, out of date, surplus, unwanted, old, inherited and unknown chemicals. For more information, call 1800 008 182 or register online at [www.chemclear.com.au](http://www.chemclear.com.au). Bookings are essential.

## **ADAPTING FARMING TO CLIMATE CHANGE — NEW INQUIRY**

The House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee has commenced a new inquiry into the role of government in assisting Australian farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Committee believes that the time is right to investigate how farmers can better adapt to the challenges of changing climate. The focus of the inquiry will be on innovation and adaptation at the enterprise level, on the ground, and the role of government and research organisations in supporting this.

The Committee will inquire into and report upon:

- Current and prospective adaptations to the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the potential impacts on downstream processing.
- The role of government in augmenting the shift towards farming practices which promote resilience in the farm sector in the face of climate change;
- The role of rural research and development in assisting farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Submissions are due by Friday March 20 2009 and can be sent to [pir.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:pir.reps@aph.gov.au). For more information, contact the Inquiry Secretary on 02 6277 4500, email [pir.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:pir.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's webpage at [www.aph.gov.au/pir](http://www.aph.gov.au/pir)

## **NEW RECREATIONAL FISHING STRATEGY DELIVERS ELECTION PROMISE**

The Rudd Government is delivering on its election commitment to establish a new recreational fishing strategy, as part of a \$2 million initiative to support the industry. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke has announced the nine members of an advisory committee established to help develop the strategy. Committee members will also work with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on leadership training and education campaigns for the recreational fishing industry. For more information go to [www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/rfids](http://www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/rfids) or phone the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on (02) 6272-3091.

## **US REVIEW OF FISH CONSUMPTION WELCOME**

A US review of official fish consumption advice has been welcomed in Australia. The review was published recently by the US Federal Government's Food & Drug Administration (FDA), following the publication of a number of studies suggesting the health positives in seafood consumption far outweighed any negatives. A team from the US National Institutes of Health, looking at the effects of Omega-3 intake on 9,000 mothers and their children, found mothers with the lowest intake of the essential fatty acid had children with a verbal IQ six points lower than the

average. Importantly those with the highest consumption of Omega-3-rich fish like Mackerel and Sardines, had children, at age three-and-a-half, with the best measures of fine-motor performance.

### **AUSTRALASIAN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 2008**

There has been quite a few enquiries regarding the availability of PowerPoint Presentations from the Conference. If you require access to a specific presentation please contact Sarah Jane Day at [sarah-jane.day@aquaculture.org.au](mailto:sarah-jane.day@aquaculture.org.au) The Program list is available at [www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/PDF/AA08\\_Program%20for%20Web%20040708.pdf](http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/PDF/AA08_Program%20for%20Web%20040708.pdf).

An email will be circulated over the coming few weeks regarding the dates and venue of Australasian Aquaculture 2010.

### **ROUND 2 SEAFOOD CRC RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANTS**

Application forms are now being accepted for Round 2 of the Seafood CRC research travel grants. If you are a Seafood CRC research provider, enrolled student or post doctoral research scientist, you are eligible to apply. Round 2 covers activities to be conducted during the July 1 – December 31, 2009 period. The CRC travel grants are designed to assist scientists to visit research and industry facilities and institutes to learn new technologies. The activity must deliver outcomes for specific Seafood CRC projects. The grants are not for the sole purpose of subsidising attendance at conferences. One research travel grant is also available for each PhD student during the lifetime of their candidature. Applications close March 13 2009. For more information, contact Emily Downes, Australian Seafood CRC on 08 8201 7652.

### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND**

DAFF is calling for applications under the Primary Industries Youth Development Fund. The fund aims to improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries, particularly in the context of the challenges and opportunities climate change presents to these industries. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available. More information is available [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/community-networks-and-capacity-building/primary-industries-youth-development-fund](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/community-networks-and-capacity-building/primary-industries-youth-development-fund).

### **BURKE ADDRESSES FOOD SECURITY AT MADRID CONFERENCE**

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke has addressed a high-level meeting on global food security in Madrid, raising free trade and scientific research as key issues. Australia was among more than 120 countries to participate in the meeting, which was convened by Spain and the United Nations. The meeting saw chiefs of key international agencies pledge to step up their commitments against hunger and malnutrition. Minister Burke told the meeting that trade liberalisation would free up the movement of food across the world and help to feed vulnerable populations. He said it was the worst time for decisions such as the European Union moving to reintroduce dairy subsidies.

### **WORMS SUCK THEIR WAY TO BETTER-TASTING BAIT**

When worms and prawns are put together in the same pond, sandworms are a natural vacuum for prawn-farm

waste, making them nutrient-rich fishing bait and organic water filters. A Federal Government grant will allow the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' (DPI&F) scientists to continue their studies of these live 'vacuum cleaners' that rejuvenate salt water in prawn farms. DPI&F senior biologist Dr Paul Palmer said the project would continue to help prawn farmers in their commercial operations and boost the farms' long-term sustainability. For more information on aquaculture, visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) or call the DPI&F Business Information Centre on 13 25 23.