

MEDIA RELEASE

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Government and industry aligns to set WA aquaculture development strategy

Registrations opened this week for the inaugural Aquaculture Western Australia State Forum which will be held in Perth on Thursday, 26 May 2016.

The Forum is collaboration between eight Regional Development Commissions, each of which identified aquaculture as a transformational economic growth opportunity in their respective Regional Investment Blueprints released over the last 12 months.

This follows the State Government's landmark Statement of Commitment released in August 2015 to develop aquaculture in Western Australia.

Hosted with support from the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia and the Department of Fisheries, Forum attendees will learn from the experiences of existing commercial operators and investigate opportunities for the industry's development in Western Australia.

The event will conclude with a workshop that will inform an industry development strategy and identify priority areas for investment.

Ross Thornton, Deputy Chairman of the Great Southern Development Commission said that the GSDC had been a long-term supporter of aquaculture along the south coast and the further development of aquaculture featured strongly in the Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint.

Chief Executive Officer of the Mid West Development Commission Gavin Treasure said a state-wide strategic approach to aquaculture development was a smart move in a competitive market.

"The Forum is a great example of the Regional Development Portfolio working in partnership with industry to maximise economic outcomes for regional WA," Mr Treasure said.

For more information visit www.pdc.wa.gov.au or contact the Pilbara Development Commission on [08] 9185 0600 or pdc@pdc.wa.gov.au

The Aquaculture Western Australia State Forum is presented by Western Australia's Regional Development Commissions, in partnership with Department of Fisheries and the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia.

“To be competitive in the global market and provide the best return on investment we need to work together to make strategic investment decisions.”

Chief Executive Officer of the Pilbara Development Commission Terry Hill said aquaculture offered an important economic diversification opportunity that would bring new skills, jobs and investment to the regions.

“With its pristine environment, disease-free status and research expertise, Western Australia is well-placed to develop a sector that can supply a major share of high-value seafood and other products to world markets,” Mr Hill said.”

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Tickets are available to purchase online. For more information visit the Pilbara Development Commission website www.pdc.wa.gov.au or contact the Commission on 08 9185 0600 or pdc@pdc.wa.gov.au

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