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Claire Wallis, Executive Officer, TSSAC  
Dean Pease, Senior Management Officer Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery, AFMA

Dear Claire and Dean,

**Re EOI** Torres Strait rock lobster (TRL) fishery surveys, stock assessment, harvest control rules and Recommended Biological Catch

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE BUDGETS FOR 2016/17

<u>BUDGET</u>		<u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>			
<u>Year: 2016/2017</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AFMA Contribution</u>	<u>Applicant Contribution</u>	<u>Applicant In kind</u>	<u>Other In kind</u>
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>171,864</b>	<b>120,304</b>	<b>51,559</b>		
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>525,894</b>	<b>368,126</b>	<b>157,768</b>		
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>351,584</b>	<b>246,109</b>	<b>105,475</b>		
<b>Option 4</b>	<b>491,970</b>	<b>344,379</b>	<b>147,591</b>		
<b>Option 5</b>	<b>370,297</b>	<b>259,208</b>	<b>111,089</b>		

Please find attached an Expression of Interest in response to the call for the following projects:

**Fishery independent survey, stock assessment and Recommended Biological Catch calculation for the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery**

**Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Harvest strategy**

Following discussions at the TRLRAG and TRLWG meetings and with AFMA, we were asked to prepare a range of alternative costings corresponding to alternative future combinations of population surveys and stock assessments. The preliminary costing summary we provided to the TRLRAG is reattached as Appendix A of our pre-proposal (including separate charter costs etc) and an updated summary for 2016/17 is provided in the Table above. We have used as the base costing estimate Option 3 as this corresponds most closely to 2015/2016 research undertaken, but will modify any future proposals based on feedback from TSSAC and other stakeholders.

As previously, we have prepared a 3-year pre-proposal as much of the work outlined is a continuation of previous research utilised each year in management of the TRL fishery and annual costings have been negotiated via a contract variation based on the updated research requirements. Further, the costings over a 3-year period provide an improved estimate of average costs given for example that surveys and assessments may not be run every year.

Kindly note that the Methods section of the attached EOI refers fairly broadly to surveys and analyses that could be conducted, and will be updated based on feedback received. All of the options proposed include a commitment to working closely with Traditional Owners to build capacity and greater involvement in all aspects of the research, building also on the many fruitful discussions and workshops held in 2015. We will also be re-submitting a related TIB development proposal as an additional means of building capacity and sharing knowledge.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for considering this application.

Yours sincerely



Dr Éva Plagányi-Lloyd

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