1. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries manages Queensland’s fisheries resources on behalf of all Queenslanders. Fisheries are a public resource, contested by thousands of commercial producers and hundreds of thousands of recreational fishers in Queensland.
2. There is a vast policy and legislative framework of regulations, procedures, practices, rules, limits and permit conditions to manage fisheries in Queensland.
3. On 6 March 2014, the former Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced a review of fisheries management in Queensland. On 30 May 2014, Brisbane-based independent consultancy, MRAG Asia Pacific, was appointed to undertake the review. MRAG Asia Pacific was tasked with delivering a policy framework that outlined a path for achieving simplified, transparent, appropriate fisheries management for Queensland. Their final report, “Taking Stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland”, provides a range of recommendations.
4. The final report confirmed the view that while Queensland fish stocks are generally in good health and the system is not fundamentally unworkable, the management arrangements are far from best practice and do not deliver optimal benefits for Queenslanders. The final report contains 80 recommendations.
5. Release of the final report provides an opportunity for community and stakeholder feedback on the recommendations. Once stakeholder feedback has been received on the full suite of recommendations, the Government will consider which recommendations should be implemented.
6. Cabinet approved public release of the final report written by MRAG Asia Pacific on their review of fisheries management in Queensland to gain community and stakeholder feedback on the recommendations.
7. Cabinet noted the 80 recommendations from the independent review of fisheries management.
8. *Attachments*
* [Final report of the independent review of Queensland’s fisheries management “Taking Stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland”](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Annex 2 to report - Public meeting presentation](Attachments/Annex%202.PDF)
* [Annex 3 to report - Notes from the public meetings](Attachments/Annex%203.PDF)
* [Annex 4 to report - Review of alternative fisheries management approaches](Attachments/Annex%204.PDF)