1. Over the past decade, growth of the aquaculture industry in Queensland has stagnated with no new major entrants to the industry and only three significant pond farm expansions being approved. The Queensland aquaculture industry contends that new investment in the sector is being discouraged by a complex and protracted regulatory framework, with no certainty about the outcome.
2. In September 2013, the Queensland Government requested the then Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to investigate and report on regulation of the Queensland aquaculture industry. The QCA final report was provided in early 2015 to the Treasurer for consideration. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has led a whole-of-government consultative process to review the QCA report.
3. The Queensland Government supports a number of the QCA’s recommendations to remove regulatory barriers and promote the future growth of the Queensland aquaculture industry in a streamlined and sustainable way.
4. A Queensland Aquaculture Policy Statement has been prepared which includes a clear statement of support for the aquaculture industry by the Queensland Government, initiatives to improve industry’s own performance in areas such as nutrient management, and a framework for the future development of the aquaculture industry in Queensland.
5. Cabinet approved the Queensland Government response to the Queensland Competition Authority Final Report *Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland* and the Queensland Aquaculture Policy Statement.
6. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Competition Authority Final Report *Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland*](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Queensland Government response to the Queensland Competition Authority Final Report on Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland](Attachments/Response.PDF)
* [Queensland Aquaculture Policy Statement](Attachments/Policy.PDF)