1. The Food Production (Safety) Act 2000 provides for food safety schemes to regulate the production of primary produce, to ensure primary produce is safe for human and animal consumption. Food safety schemes are already in place for meat, dairy and egg production and processing activities.
2. The seafood scheme will implement the National Standard for Primary Production and Processing of Seafood developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, and set out food safety and suitability requirements for seafood businesses up to, but not including, retail activities. The national seafood standard can only come into effect in Queensland when it is incorporated into Queensland legislation.
3. In June 2007 Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ) released a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) which canvassed the options for adoption of the national seafood standard into Queensland legislation. As a result of consultation during the RIS process and subsequent meetings with a range of industry associations, a seafood scheme has been developed to implement the national seafood standard. There is general stakeholder support for the scheme.
4. The seafood scheme will help to maintain and enhance consumer confidence that Queensland seafood is produced under safe conditions through a regulated assurance scheme.
5. Certain scheme provisions such as those requiring seafood businesses to be on a Register maintained by SFPQ will commence on 1 July 2009. However, requirements for businesses to obtain accreditation and pay associated fees will not commence until 1 January 2010. This will allow time for the industry to become familiar with the Scheme requirements and to plan for compliance with its provisions.
6. Cabinet approved that the *Primary Industries and Fisheries Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
7. Cabinet noted that the *Primary Industries and Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009* will be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days after publication in the Government Gazette.
8. *Attachments*
* [*Primary Industries and Fisheries Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009*](Attachments/Primary%20Inds%20and%20Fisheries%20Reg%20No.1.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Primary%20Inds%20and%20Fisheries%20Ex%20Notes.pdf)
* [Regulatory Impact Statement](Attachments/Primary%20Inds%20and%20Fisheries%20RIS.pdf)