1. The Queensland Government has adopted a planning approach for aquaculture, to ensure that future aquaculture development is suitably located and managed, and to increase the opportunities for involvement of affected stakeholders including the public. Initial planning activities focussed on guiding the development of non-intensive (that is, no feed added) marine aquaculture activities in the Great Sandy region.
2. The Queensland Government had announced the commencement of a whole-of-government marine aquaculture plan for the Great Sandy region on 31 May 2006. Public review of a Draft Plan occurred between August and October 2008. Following this review, the Draft Plan was subjected to a comprehensive assessment by the Commonwealth government to ensure alignment with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1*999.
3. The Great Sandy regional marine aquaculture plan and its Implementation Guide have been completed in consultation with Queensland and Commonwealth government agencies.
4. The Policy for the allocation of marine aquaculture authorities was developed simultaneously to provide for both competitive (assessed against allocation criteria) and non-competitive (granted on application) approaches to allocate marine aquaculture authorities. Public review of the Draft Allocation Policy occurred between August and October 2008.
5. Cabinet approved the Great Sandy regional marine aquaculture plan (the Plan), Implementation Guide for the Great Sandy regional marine aquaculture plan and the Policy for the allocation of marine aquaculture authorities.
6. Cabinet approved the adoption of the Plan as the whole-of-government guideline for assessment of future aquaculture approvals.
7. Cabinet approved the release of sites for aquaculture under the Plan according to an Expression of Interest and subsequent competitive allocation process as described in the Allocation Policy.
8. *Attachments*
* [Great Sandy regional marine aquaculture plan](Attachments/Attachment%201%20Plan.PDF)
* [Implementation Guide for the Great Sandy regional marine aquaculture plan](Attachments/Attachment%202%20Implementation%20Guide.PDF)
* [Policy for the allocation of marine aquaculture authorities](Attachments/Attachment%203%20Allocation%20Policy.PDF)