1. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has reviewed the governing legislation for marine mammals in Queensland – the Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997 and the Nature Conservation (Dugong) Conservation Plan 1999.
2. As a result of the review, the department has prepared new marine mammal legislation for Queensland, now consolidated within the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*.
3. The key issues addressed through the new legislation include:
* Allowing commercial whale-watching to occur in state waters that are outside marine parks.
* Amending marine mammal approach distances for vessels and aircraft to reflect national guidelines.
* Simplifying and streamlining the declaration process for areas of special interest and special interest whales and dolphins, and introducing special interest provisions for dugongs.
* Providing a framework for dolphin feeding to continue at Tin Can Bay.
1. As part of the Queensland Government’s commitment to reduce and simplify regulation, the new legislation replaces the Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997 and the Nature Conservation (Dugong) Conservation Plan 1999 and brings these provisions into the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*.
2. Three rounds of public consultation were undertaken as part of the review. A consultation package which included draft legislation, a guide to the draft legislation and a list of common ‘questions and answers’ were made available to support the third round of public consultation which concluded in February 2013. Submissions received were considered in the development of the new legislation.
3. Cabinet endorsed that the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2013* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
4. *Attachments*:
* [*Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2013*](Attachments/Regulation.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)