1. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries manages Queensland’s fisheries resources on behalf of all Queenslanders. Fisheries are a public resource that need to be sustainably managed with access shared across a number of fishing sectors in the interests of all Queenslanders.
2. The government made a number of commitments in relation to fisheries including the establishment of three net free zones at Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns which has now been completed.
3. One of the key commitments was reviewing the regulatory structure to ensure sustainability of Queensland’s fisheries. A Green Paper on fisheries management reform was released in July 2016 for feedback. The Green Paper outlined “where we are now, where we want to be, and how we can get there”. More than 11,000 submissions were received, the vast majority of which supported reform. Notable areas of support were for improved fishery monitoring, more effective engagement, more responsive decision making and greater fisheries compliance.
4. The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (the Strategy) provides a clear pathway to reform fisheries management over the next 10 years. The Strategy presents the Queensland Government's vision for the fishing sector as a "*modern, responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management ensures fishing is a low risk to Queensland’s aquatic resources, and these are used in a way to optimise benefits to the community*”.
5. The Strategy also sets out the ten key areas of reform to achieve this, the principles that should apply and the actions that will be taken to deliver better fisheries management in Queensland.
6. The government committed to the development of a Charter Fishing Action Plan to build a world-class charter industry in Queensland. A series of targeted workshops with small focus groups of charter fishers and government agencies were undertaken in 2015 to identify issues and possible ideas to build the sector. The Charter Fishing Action Plan Discussion Paper seeks further public consultation on a range of possible actions to support the election commitment.
7. Cabinet approved the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy which sets out the government’s fisheries reform agenda for the next ten years and the release of the summary of results of consultation on the Green Paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland.
8. Cabinet approved the release of the Charter Fishing Action Plan Discussion Paper for consultation, to seek views on proposed actions to build a world class charter industry.
9. *Attachments*
* [Sustainable Fisheries Strategy](Attachments/Strategy.pdf)
* [Summary of results of consultation on the Green Paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland](Attachments/Results.pdf)
* [Charter Fishing Action Plan Discussion Paper](Attachments/Paper.pdf)