1. White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) is the cause of White Spot Disease in crustaceans. WSSV was detected in farmed prawns in the Alberton/Woongoolba region in late 2016. During March 2017, commercial harvested samples of greasy prawns, brown tiger prawns and banana prawns from the northern Moreton Bay were confirmed positive to WSSV by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory.
2. Movement Control Orders (MCO) have been made under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* as part of efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Under the MCO, WSSV carriers (green prawns and other uncooked crustaceans) were not permitted to be moved outside the area. Cooked crustacean products were permitted to leave the area.
3. Based on a report by an expert Scenario Planning Advisory Panel, a precautionary approach is being implemented. The amendment regulation, which will replace the MCO, establishes biosecurity zones to contain and control the WSSV infection and prevent its spread to uninfected areas by restricting where some product can be moved to, used or sold, but allowing all activities within the area to continue.
4. Cabinet endorsed that the *Biosecurity (White Spot Syndrome Virus) Amendment Regulation 2017* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
5. *Attachments*
* [*Biosecurity (White Spot Syndrome Virus) Amendment Regulation 2017*](Attachments/Reg.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)