1. Queensland’s fisheries resources are managed by the Queensland Government on behalf of the broader community. Over the last decade, it has become apparent that the current framework used to manage these resources is not optimising the potential economic, social and environmental outcomes these resources could generate for the community. Competition for access to these resources has increased to the point where there is now conflict between sectors; and the ability of the management framework to ensure the sustainability of these resources for some species is in jeopardy.
2. The Queensland Government released the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027* (the Strategy) in June 2017, paving the way for a world-class fisheries management system. The Strategy commits to delivering a more modern, responsive and consultative fisheries management framework for Queensland. In order to deliver upon the commitments made by the Government through the Strategy, amendments to the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Fisheries Act) and the Regulation are required. A number of changes are being made to the Fisheries Act to:
* modernise the objectives of the Fisheries Act and recognise the interests of key stakeholder groups;
* clarify the roles of the Minister responsible for fisheries and the Chief Executive in the management of the State’s fisheries to allow for more responsive decision-making through the use of harvest strategies;
* strengthen the enforcement powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences such as black-marketing; and
* reduce complexity and remove redundant provisions.
1. The Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 would embed the principles and commitments of the Strategy in the Fisheries Act, and provide the legislative foundations needed to reform Queensland’s fisheries in line with the Strategy.
2. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries released a discussion paper on the proposed changes to the Fisheries Act for public consultation in March 2018. Feedback received through this process has been considered in preparing the changes to the Fisheries Act.
3. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 into the Legislative Assembly.
4. *Attachments*
* [Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)