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.
2. The Queensland Government released the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027* (the Strategy) in June 2017, paving the way for 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* (the Fisheries Act) and the Regulation are required. As such, a number of changes to the Fisheries Act aim 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
* apply contemporary drafting practices to review the structure of the Fisheries Act to reduce complexity and remove redundant provisions.
1. These amendments 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. A discussion paper has been developed on the proposed changes to the Fisheries Act for public consultation. Feedback received through this process will be presented to the Government for consideration before changes are made to Queensland’s fisheries legislation.
3. Cabinet approved the release of a discussion paper for public consultation on the proposed changes to the *Fisheries Act 1994*.
4. *Attachments*
* [Discussion paper - Proposed amendments to modernise the *Fisheries Act 1994*](Attachments/Paper.PDF).