



Mr Alex Dobes
Aquaculture Review
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Dobes

Draft Report Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority thanks the Queensland Competition Authority for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft report titled *Aquaculture Regulation in Queensland July 2014*.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the development of ecologically sustainable aquaculture developments both within, and adjacent to, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendation for the identification of terrestrial aquaculture development areas. Identification of these areas must include a full assessment of the ability of the receiving environment to assimilate aquaculture wastewater discharges without significantly impacting on the form and function of these aquatic ecosystems.

Since the publication of this draft report, the Australian and Queensland Governments have released the following Great Barrier Reef reports:

- The Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment: Strategic Assessment Report.
- The Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment: Program Report.
- The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014.

Five new initiatives will be developed and implemented to strengthen management of the Great Barrier Reef:

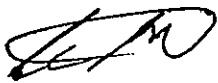
- Management framework based on outcomes and targets to guide decision making and the actions required to maintain and restore the condition of values.
- Cumulative impact assessment guidelines to support a transparent, consistent and systematic approach to assessing cumulative impacts from activities within and adjacent to the Region.
- Net benefit policy to guide actions required to restore ecosystem health, improve the condition of values and guide financial contributions to that recovery.
- Reef recovery program to cooperatively restore sites of high environmental value.
- Reef-wide integrated monitoring and reporting program which directly links to the outcomes-based management framework and underpins the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's adaptive management.

These initiatives will drive the actions required to build a healthy and resilient Great Barrier Reef and enhance protection of matters of national environmental significance. The immediate focus will be on outcomes and targets to guide decision making, cumulative impact assessment guidelines, and a net benefit policy.

The standards and thresholds derived from these initiatives will provide clear guidance on what level of aquaculture development both within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is acceptable. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority would recommend that these initiatives be included in the regulatory requirements section of the final report.

Should you have any questions regarding the comments made above, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Leigh Gray on 07 4750 0732.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Elliot
General Manager
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use

26 August 2014