

AQUACULTURE REVIEW OF REGULATION

The Queensland Government has directed the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to investigate the options for reforming regulation of the State's aquaculture industry.

While the State has a successful aquaculture industry, especially in prawn and barramundi farming, Queensland accounts for just 11 per cent of aquaculture production in Australia. Research commissioned by the QCA shows that Queensland lags Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia on key measures such as value of production and exports. There seems to be significant potential for more rapid growth in the Queensland industry.

The terms of reference for the inquiry require the QCA to consider a broad range of issues:

- economic development opportunities and constraints
- environmental and social considerations
- fish health and biosecurity issues
- marine park considerations
- applicable Commonwealth Government regulation and policy
- consumer perceptions of Queensland aquaculture practices and products.

The Government's direction is available on the QCA's website.

The QCA will work closely with all stakeholders to identify practical reforms which strike the right balance between environmental protection, biosecurity and economic development.

The aquaculture industry is subject to local, State and Commonwealth regulation: the QCA will work with governments, industry and the community to find ways to simplify these regulatory layers without jeopardising protection.

The QCA will compare regulatory arrangements in Australia and other countries to find best practice. One possible reform is the introduction of a single Act to regulate the industry, as applies in South Australia.

The review will commence in November, with an issues paper released in December for public comment.

The final report will be completed in September 2014.

Task	Indicative Dates
● Review starts	12 November 2013
● Issues paper released – public consultation starts	December 2013
● Submissions close	March 2014
● Draft report published – public submissions invited	May 2014
● Submissions close	July 2014
● Final report released	September 2014

People wishing to register their interest in the review should log on to www.qca.org.au or email aquaculture@qca.org.au