

26 MAR 2014



Department of
**Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry**

Aquaculture Review
Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Alex

I refer to the Issues Paper released by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) which is part of the review currently underway for aquaculture regulation in Queensland.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) strongly supports the review and chairs the Steering Committee established to provide advice and guidance to the QCA during this review process. DAFF are also providing advice and support to the review team at officer level as required.

There are significant opportunities for future expansion of the aquaculture industry in Queensland. Aquaculture continues to increase globally as wild capture fisheries struggle to meet the growing demand for seafood. Expansion of the aquaculture industry would support the Queensland Agriculture Strategy which has a vision to double food production by 2040 and any positive initiatives that would facilitate this should be encouraged.

I note that a number of important issues have been raised in the Issues Paper and DAFF provides the following comments. This response is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the points raised in the Issues Paper and is not to be considered Departmental policy.

DAFF have long recognised that planning for both land-based and marine aquaculture is a key factor to the future long term sustainable development of this industry. DAFF has previously undertaken aquaculture planning including the establishment of the Great Sandy Regional Marine Aquaculture Plan which identified a number of sites suitable for extensive aquaculture development.

Up-front identification of sites by government, as evident in other States, would address many of the critical issues applicants currently face throughout the assessment process. The identification of appropriate sites would provide an opportunity to address both State and Commonwealth regulatory requirements and provide greater certainty for investors establishing new aquaculture developments. It would be essential that any planning process included analysis of water quality data to address discharge requirements.

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We look forward to continuing to work with the QCA to complete this important review. If you require any further information, please contact Kerrod Beattie, Manager, on telephone 07 3087 8023 or email Kerrod.beattie@daff.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Spencer', written in a cursive style.

Scott Spencer

Deputy Director-General

Fisheries and Forestry

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry