

From: Alex Dobes

Sent: Friday, 25 July 2014 3:54 PM

To: 'mail@cook.qld.gov.au'; 'Reception@lockhart.qld.gov.au'; 'tisha.gordon@hopevale.qld.gov.au'; 'chambers@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au'; 'ceo@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au'; 'mayor@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au'; 'info@msc.qld.gov.au'; 'enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au'; 'council@cairns.qld.gov.au'; 'yarrabahcc@c130.aone.net.au'; 'enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au'; 'council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au'; 'enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au'; 'burdekinc@burdekin.qld.gov.au'; 'info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au'; 'council@mackay.qld.gov.au'; 'enquiries@livingstone.qld.gov.au'; 'records@isaac.qld.gov.au'; 'enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au'; 'info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au'; 'ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au'; 'enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au'; 'council@gympie.qld.gov.au'; 'info@nparc.qld.gov.au'; 'mapoon.mayor@mapoon.qld.gov.au'; 'mapoon.ceo@mapoon.qld.gov.au'; 'ceo.weipatown@bigpond.com'; 'mayor@aurukun.qld.gov.au'; 'ceo@aurukun.qld.gov.au'; 'ceo@pompuraaw.qld.gov.au'; 'council@carpentaria.qld.gov.au'; 'office@burke.qld.gov.au'; 'admin@kowanyama.qld.gov.au'; 'admin@torres.qld.gov.au'; 'info@tsirc.qld.gov.au'; 'reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au'; 'mail@noosa.qld.gov.au'; 'mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au'; 'mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au'; 'rcc@redland.qld.gov.au'; 'council@logan.qld.gov.au'; 'mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au'

Cc: Angella Nhan; Wei Fang Lim

Subject: QCA draft report on aquaculture - seeking local government input [QCA- Documents.FID40475]

Hi all

This e-mail is to let you know that the Queensland Competition Authority has released a draft report on aquaculture, and that we are seeking local government input. We are sending this e-mail to all coastal councils in Queensland.

The draft report is available here: <http://www.qca.org.au/Productivity/Productivity-Projects/Review-of-Queensland-Aquaculture-Regulation/In-Progress/Review-of-Queensland-Aquaculture-Regulation>

The deadline for comment is Monday 1 September 2014.

The points most likely to be of interest to councils are as follows:

- The QCA recommends the creation of land-based aquaculture development areas. In these areas, development applications would be code-assessable according to parameters defined in advance by local government, Queensland government agencies, and Commonwealth government agencies. A detailed discussion of development areas is in section 8.1, on pp. 37-47 of the draft report.
- The QCA recommends that the government consider possibilities for marine aquaculture in less populated areas, particularly the Torres Strait and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Relevant discussion is in Chapter 9, on pp. 57-60 of the draft report.
- A recent marine aquaculture development in Torres Strait is described in Appendix G, on pp. 108-111 of the draft report. This development was approved in eight months.
- Appendix H (pp. 112-117) gives example maps showing the first stage (mapping only) of identifying potential development areas. We emphasise that these maps show only known topographical features and known development constraints, and do not account for local preferences for the location of aquaculture operations. The QCA draft report notes the importance of local consultation in establishing suitable locations for the expansion of the aquaculture sector.
- The QCA website has 64 maps showing similar features along Queensland's east coast. Once again, we emphasise that these maps show only known topographical features and development constraints, and do not incorporate local consultation.

A more general summary of the draft report is below my signature block.

We are happy to provide more information, and to discuss local government views, at meetings in Brisbane or elsewhere in Queensland. The QCA's focus is mainly on regulatory matters. If councils wish to discuss technical matters, we can request attendance by experts from the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

We're well aware that some local governments view aquaculture as a potential source of economic growth and employment, while other local governments consider that it conflicts with existing activities in their region. The aim of local consultation, as described in the QCA draft report, is to ensure that aquaculture development takes place only where it is consistent with local preferences.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to make a submission, please feel free to contact me. If you would like to raise more general issues beyond the immediate scope of your council, or you do not have sufficient resources to make a submission, we are more than happy to discuss your issues with representative bodies such as the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

Regards

Alex Dobes
Principal Analyst



T 07 3222 0584
M 0419 229127
Alex.Dobes@qca.org.au
www.qca.org.au

The key findings of the draft report are as follows:

Over the last decade, investment in Queensland's aquaculture sector appears to have stalled, with no major new entrants to the market and only a modest expansion of established projects. This situation compares unfavourably with industry growth in Australia and elsewhere.

The QCA believes that Queensland's aquaculture sector has significant commercial potential. Despite the dearth of major new projects over the last ten years, the industry has still achieved compound annual growth of 4 per cent. Discussions with industry have confirmed strong interest in further development.

Many industry participants claim that regulatory risk is a significant barrier to new investment. The regulatory approval process is protracted, with no certainty about outcomes.

The QCA recommends that the government establish land-based aquaculture development areas as a way of ensuring a timely and transparent process for approvals.

The QCA recommends that each development area have a clear code for assessment of development applications, explaining the regulatory conditions for aquaculture in that area. Such a code should be developed in conjunction with local government, Queensland government agencies and Commonwealth government agencies.

The QCA recommends that the government defer consideration of the merits of a single legislative instrument for regulating aquaculture. This step can be considered once more practical regulatory reforms have been well established. The question of a single legislative instrument was raised by AREC (the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee of Parliament) in 2012, and the ministerial Direction for the aquaculture review specified that the QCA should investigate this issue.

The QCA recommends that the government investigate the potential for marine aquaculture development areas in less populated areas with a low possibility of conflict with other users of marine resources.