

NATIONAL AQUACULTURE POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT

All Australian Governments commit to working in partnership with the aquaculture industry to achieve maximum sustainable growth, whilst also meeting national and international expectations for environmental, social and economic performance.

Specifically, Governments:

- Recognise and support the development of ecologically sustainable aquaculture as an industry of the future
- Acknowledge that major benefits to communities can flow from the innovative use of water, land and other natural resources
- Acknowledge that aquaculture can provide significant investment and employment opportunities to rural and regional economies
- Will develop an investment, policy and regulatory framework that encourages industry growth
- Recognise that Australia can be a leader in regional aquaculture development, building on its established advantages in areas such as policy, innovation, research and development
- Recognise that aquaculture can contribute significantly to the economic independence and development of indigenous communities
- Acknowledge the need to provide for aquaculture in the allocation of natural resources
- Support investment in biosecurity initiatives that protect the quality of aquatic environments
- Acknowledge the importance of innovation, research and development, and knowledge transfer to the development of the aquaculture industry
- Recognise the need to foster dynamic industry leadership to support long term industry resilience



And will commit to:

1 The facilitation of effective, efficient, timely and transparent planning and approval processes to:

- improve processes for identification and allocation of aquaculture sites, in an ESD context
- provide pro-active planning for anticipated industry growth
- create a stable regulatory environment within which sustainable aquaculture businesses can grow
- strive for an 'integrated' framework for statutory approvals (within government and across governments)
- clarify access to Commonwealth waters for industry development

2 Supporting and recognising continual improvement of ecologically sustainable aquaculture practices and to develop environmental performance standards for aquaculture, including:

- facilitating industry development of technologies to improve environmental performance, codes of practice and environmental management systems
- development of standards for aquatic animal welfare
- development of quality assurance and performance standards for disease, genetics and water quality management, including application of ANZECC water quality guidelines
- working with industry to develop a national ESD assessment and reporting framework for aquaculture

3 Provide and encourage investment for growth by:

Capital

- providing and encouraging case management capacity for significant projects
- investigating and considering innovative programs for capital raising and investment

Support for initiatives to establish brand recognition of Australian aquaculture products

- supporting an international market focus
- supporting initiatives to establish brand recognition of Australian aquaculture products

Research and development

- encouraging and facilitating the full 0.25% Gross Value of Product contribution to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- directing collaborative research and development to achieve solutions to sustainable industry development issues
- promoting research and development initiatives to ensure consumer and farm species health (eg. Aquaplan, Aquatic Animal Health Sub-program, chemical registration, etc.)

4 Ensuring participation of the Australian industry and broader community in aquaculture planning and management by:

- supporting the National Aquaculture Council as appropriate
- encouraging indigenous participation in the industry at all levels
- providing for community level input to decision making on allocation of public lands and waters for aquaculture development



The following government agencies lead the development of aquaculture in Australia:

Commonwealth Government

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia

State and Territory Governments

Victoria Department of Natural Resources and Environment

New South Wales NSW Fisheries

Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Western Australia Department of Fisheries

South Australia Primary Industries and Resources South Australia

Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development