



Project Barracuda

Reform and red-tape reduction in Fisheries

An improved customer experience

We are committed to improving the experience of our customers.

By simplifying management arrangements for the commercial, aquaculture and recreational fishing sectors, we aim to reduce the administrative burden on fishers.

Project Barracuda is our effort to implement reform and reduce red tape in Fisheries – without compromising the sustainability of our aquatic resources or our high biosecurity standards.



New legislation – two laws into one

The Aquatic Resources Management Bill was introduced to Parliament by the State Government in 2015.

The Bill will replace the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and the *Pearling Act 1990* and is designed to streamline commercial and recreational fishing

management arrangements, and introduce clearer provisions for biosecurity and aquaculture.

The new legislation strengthens the basis for the Department's risk-based approach to decision making and reduces the large number of operational matters that require Ministerial approval. It will also allow for the revision, simplification and standardisation of regulations and management frameworks.

The Bill is anticipated to be passed by Parliament in 2016 and be enacted on 1 January 2018.

Over the past year we have briefed Members of Parliament and other key stakeholders in support of the Bill's passage through Parliament. And to prepare the groundwork for its implementation, we have commenced drafting instructions, reviewing regulations and preparing to engage with our stakeholders.

Digital transformation

The Department has progressively digitised its key services since 2009, beginning with the online application and renewal of recreational fishing licences.

Since then, the Department has delivered online catch reporting for the west coast rock lobster and abalone commercial fisheries. Commercial licensing activities have also been progressively moved to a digital platform including the renewal of commercial fishing licences and the transfer of West Coast Rock Lobster fishery quota.



We have also enhanced in-field catch reporting for commercial west coast rock lobster fishers through improvements to the *CatchER* app, implemented an online vessel nomination and risk assessment tool for

managing potential marine biosecurity risks, and provided online applications for commercial fishing licences.



CatchER allows rock lobster fishers to report their catch returns while at sea.

In 2016-17, we plan to continue to implement ongoing improvements in the west coast rock lobster fishery by enabling registered receivers to undertake online reporting of lobsters received from fishers, slashing up to 20,000 paper forms a year.

We also plan to:

- implement an online system for catch data from the Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery;
- simplify and standardise catch return requirements for more than 20 commercial fisheries; and
- introduce online applications for commercial fishing licenses.

Systematic red-tape review

We have begun a three-year program to systematically reduce red tape in all aspects of our business.

In the recreational fishing sector we have scrapped the requirement for a freshwater angling licence for fishers aged under 16 years, and made fishing rules easier to follow for rock lobster and for the highly-prized pink snapper in Shark Bay.



Fishing rules changes for pink snapper in Shark Bay have given more recreational fishers access to this valuable resource.

We plan to review finfish size limits in a bid to further simplify rules and provide clear explanations for those limits which remain in place.

In aquaculture we are working with the Department of Finance to implement regulatory improvements to the sector. And to help boost tourism we will slash red tape for the charter vessel industry.