



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries  
Management Authority**



22 June 2009

Dear Torres Strait fisheries stakeholder,

The costs and complexity of administering the Torres Strait fisheries are a concern to both government agencies and stakeholders.

AFMA, QDPI&F and the TSRA have commissioned a review of Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) governance arrangements as a first step in addressing these concerns. The review was conducted in response to the PZJA at its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April 2008 asking agencies to consider options on fisheries management administrative arrangements for the Torres Strait in the context of cost sharing agreements.

The review has resulted in a discussion paper which is attached to this letter. Please note that the report has been prepared as a high level discussion paper and is the first step in consultation with stakeholders. The PZJA have not yet had an opportunity to consider the discussion paper. Agencies are seeking your responses to the discussion paper before it is provided to the PZJA for consideration.

The goal is to improve administrative arrangements, reduce costs and deliver timely outcomes for all stakeholders in Torres Strait Fisheries. Some of the options will require legislative amendment and therefore some changes may not be possible in the short term. Agencies also recognise that the issues in the Torres Strait are broader than just fisheries management. Socio and economic concerns are also a factor.

Your responses to this discussion paper will be carefully considered by agencies. A range of alternatives will then be provided to the PZJA for their consideration along with stakeholder views. Further consultation is likely once preferred options have been identified and the PZJA have had an opportunity to consider the report.

The period for comment on this discussion paper is open until 31 August 2009. Please send all comments care of AFMA and addressed to Torres Strait Review, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Box 7051, Canberra Business Centre, Canberra ACT 2610, Australia; or via email: [TorresStraitreview@afma.gov.au](mailto:TorresStraitreview@afma.gov.au). If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Southwell on AFMA Direct: 1300 723 621.

Yours sincerely



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