



Speech by

**Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Hansard 27 May 1999

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**QFMA; Fisheries Management**

**Hon. H. PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.04 a.m.), by leave: As this House will be aware, I have been less than satisfied with the quality of management performance being achieved in the area of fisheries management in this State. It was for this reason that I sought Cabinet approval on 10 May for the removal of the board of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the appointment of an interim board. Might I say that, since the appointment of that interim board, there has been a marked improvement in the performance of the QFMA.

I also indicated at the time the previous board was removed that I intended to order a full internal review of fisheries management in DPI and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to try to find a more workable model for the management of one of the State's most vital resources. I was acutely aware of the need for this kind of review because of the ongoing confusion over who does what when it comes to the responsibilities of the QFMA and the Fisheries Section of DPI. It has been worrying to me as Minister and it has been the cause of a great deal of concern within the recreational and commercial fishing industries, the community at large and the environmental movement in particular.

But I am able to announce today that I have appointed Mr Peter Neville, Executive Director of Policy and Legal Services within the Department of Primary Industries and a former deputy chair of the QFMA, to carry out the internal review. The terms of reference for the review will cover—

identifying and defining the roles and areas of responsibility and accountability and lines of communication between the QFMA, the DPI and the Minister for Primary Industries;

the resources and range of skills needed by the QFMA to effectively manage Queensland fisheries; and

recommend changes to the current Fisheries Act, DPI and QFMA structures to implement the Queensland Government's policy on the ecologically sustainable development of Queensland fisheries.

There is a responsibility on Government to deliver the quality of fisheries management expected by stakeholders and the community at large. I have asked that the review be completed and ready for implementation within three months.

This course of action will set Queensland's fisheries back on course and provide clarity and certainty to one of the State's major recreational and commercial industries. It will also make a major contribution to our ability as a State to conduct our fisheries operations in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner. In short, we have to balance the needs of one of our nation's greatest resources with the requirements of an environmentally sustainable industry. In this regard there is clearly a national responsibility as well as a State responsibility. Queensland's fisheries have had their problems up to this point, but we are now well and truly on the way to setting them right.