

Reducing red tape with self-assessable codes for fisheries development

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The *Fisheries Act 1994* and *Fisheries Regulation 1995* were rolled into the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA) in 2005. Fisheries development approvals are required under IPA for marine plant disturbance; works in a declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA); tidal, marine and freshwater aquaculture operations and waterway barrier works. Low impact fisheries development such as temporary, minor or maintenance works may be permitted without an approval under one of DPI&F's self-assessable codes. There are currently eight codes in use: five relating to marine plant disturbance and works in an FHA; two for waterway barrier works and one for aquaculture. Additional codes are being developed for low impact new works involving marine plant disturbance or works in an FHA, and waterway barrier works. One of the codes will include provisions for low impact works such as runnelling for mosquito control, removal of *Lyngbya* from foreshores, relocation of Queensland Transport navigation aids, and works under a marine plant management plan. The self-assessable codes for fisheries development are an effective tool in cutting red tape for low impact works, while ensuring effective management of fisheries resources.