



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

Mr Graeme Bolton  
Deputy Director-General Fisheries and Forestry  
Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
GPO BOX 46  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Bolton

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment in relation to the reassessment of the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab and Mud Crab fisheries under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

On 21 January 2021, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) wrote to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment requesting variations to conditions attached to the accreditation under Part 13 of the EPBC Act for the two crab fisheries. The letter also advised that the Queensland Government has made new fisheries regulations for all Queensland fisheries, including the two crab fisheries. QDAF provided a summary of the regulatory changes for each fishery.

We advised that, given the new fisheries regulations, the Part 13 accreditation for interactions with protected species would need to be re-made. As these changes to the management regime are considered significant, a new Part 13 accreditation requires an assessment to ensure the provisions of Part 13 continue to be met.

This letter is to advise that the Part 13 assessment for the two crab fisheries listed above is now complete. I have also considered your request to amend the conditions attached to the previous accreditation. Noting that QDAF has made progress towards implementing the conditions attached to that accreditation, I have reaccredited the management arrangements for each fishery designed to minimise interactions with species listed under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. The Part 13 accreditation includes two revised conditions that were agreed by officials from both departments. These are set out at [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Timmins".

Laura Timmins  
Delegate of the Minister for the Environment

12 February 2021



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
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**Attachment 1**

**Conditions for the purposes of Part 13 of the EPBC Act for interactions with protected species in the Queensland Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery – February 2021**

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
  - a. Develop risk mitigation strategies for marine turtles by January 2022. Mitigation strategies to be implemented in parallel with the development of a harvest strategy for the fishery.
  
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to work with crab fishery stakeholders to:
  - a. Implement the relevant plans under Queensland's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 to improve monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions by fishers in the commercial sector; and
  - b. Implement a system to independently validate commercial fishery interactions with protected species.

**Conditions for the purposes of Part 13 of the EPBC Act for interactions with protected species in the Queensland Mud Crab Fishery – February 2021**

1. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to:
  - b. Develop risk mitigation strategies for marine turtles by January 2022. Mitigation strategies to be implemented in parallel with the development of a harvest strategy for the fishery.
  
2. Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to continue to work with crab fishery stakeholders to:
  - c. Implement the relevant plans under Queensland’s Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 to improve monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions by fishers in the commercial sector; and
  - d. Implement a system to independently validate commercial fishery interactions with protected species.