


**Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries**

**Offset Policy - Marine Plants and other Fish Habitats**

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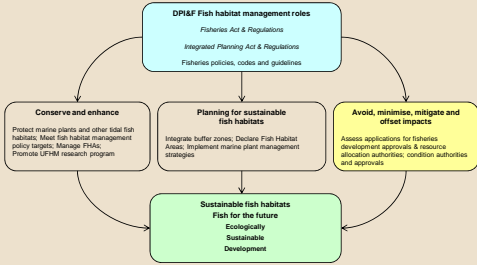
**Offset Policy**

Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy – FHMOP005


*Mitigation and compensation for works or activities causing marine fish habitat loss*

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**DPI&F Fish habitat management roles summary**



DPI&F tidal fish habitat management framework

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**Fish Habitat Management Operational Policy – FHMOP005**

- 1994 Fisheries Act
- Policy 2002
- Pre-dates the current terminology
- Complements & part of QGEOP
- To date - a stand alone document
- Review & alignment with QGEOP in 2009
- Includes vegetated & unvegetated habitats

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**Relevance of Policy**

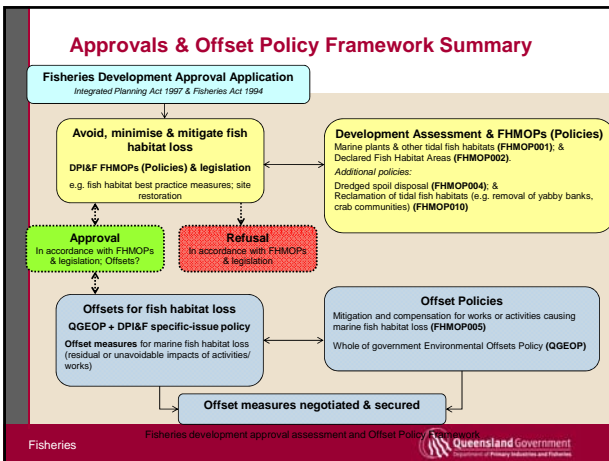
- Part of resource management
- Avoid impacts
- Mitigate and minimise impacts
- Offset unavoidable impacts

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**Application of Policy – How ???**

- To approvals under IPA
  - Disturbance of Marine Plants
  - Works within declared Fish Habitat Areas
- Offset
  - Applied by condition of approvals
- Specifically defined in conditions
- Legal Agreement requirement under condition

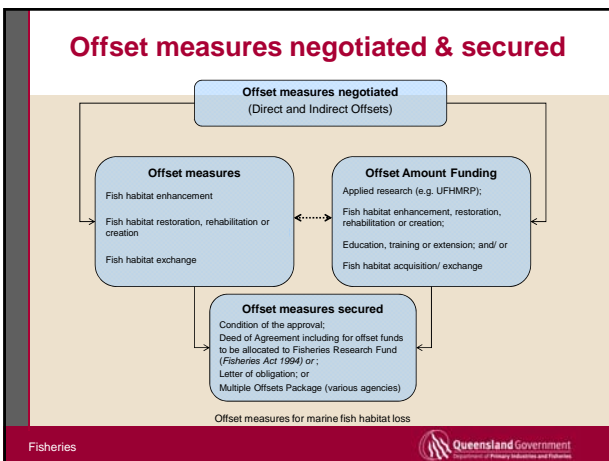
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- ### Application of Policy – When ???
- All approvals for Marine plant disturbance and Fish Habitat Area (FHA) works
  - Minor disturbance or works not currently pursued (Private Pontoons)
  - Relevant only to approved disturbances or works (Marine Plant & declared FHA policies support decisions)
  - Not buying approval
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- ### Avoidance v Mitigation v Offset (today's terminology)
- Avoidance (part of assessment)
    - Necessary
    - No alternatives
  - Mitigation (part of assessment)
    - Minimisation (size location design)
    - Best practice (sediment controls – restoration of temporary disturbance areas)
  - Offset
    - Expectation as part of but following approval (not part of assessment)
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- ### Selecting the Offset Type
- On site like for like (Priority)
  - Off site like for like
  - Restoration or rehabilitation of degraded habitats
  - Off site relevant
  - Land exchange
  - Funding relevant
    - Research
    - Community initiatives
    - Education
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- ### Offset – Will Not
- Add impacts to the unavoidable
  - Impact upon other valuable aquatic or terrestrial habitat resources
  - Koala habitat to Marine Plant habitat
  - Unvegetated habitats to Marine Plant habitat
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## Challenges

- Negotiating no net loss
- Finding sites
- IPA Time lines
  - Do not allow for discussion after a decision is made.
  - Require offsets details before decision is made but dependant upon decision
- Ongoing management of offsets
  - Administration
  - Monitoring

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## Recommendation

- Contact Southern Fisheries Centre early in the process
  - 3817 9527
- Do your own investigation of potential fish habitat offsets to balance impacts of the development proposal
- Document potential offsets in the application with an acknowledgement that you are aware of the relevance of offsets to approval

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## Recommendation

- [Additional slides](#)

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