Consultation on proposed changes to Deception Bay declared Fish Habitat Area

November 2026

What is proposed?

The Queensland Government is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Deception Bay declared Fish Habitat Area (FHA) that adjoins the North Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA).

Consultation is being undertaken with the community and stakeholders to ensure feedback is obtained on proposed changes that may include:

- Revocation of part of the FHA within the Caboolture River for a future navigation channel and development associated with the North Harbour PDA; and
- Revision of the management A area upstream of the Caboolture River mouth to a management B area to accommodate future development that may be required.

Why changes are being considered?

Development associated with the North Harbour PDA includes future water-dependent infrastructure, such as a navigation channel and marina access facilities in the Caboolture River. These development activities are inconsistent with the current FHA management A area that restricts development by providing the highest available level of protection for fish habitats.

Lowering the FHA protection level in the Caboolture River from management A to management B area is being considered to maintain protection of important fish habitats while providing greater flexibility to accommodate proposed infrastructure associated with the PDA, or other development in the future.

Deception Bay declared FHA

The Deception Bay FHA was declared in 1969 and covers an area of 1,490 ha, with most of the area declared as a management A area and approximately 1.6 ha declared as a management B area. The FHA protects important estuarine and coastal habitats that support commercial, recreational and Indigenous fisheries of Moreton Bay, while existing alongside developed urban areas. **Figure 1** shows the location of the FHA and the current management A and management B areas.

Key habitat values of the Deception Bay declared FHA include:

- Mangrove forests and sand-mud foreshores along the shoreline
- Mangrove-lined creek systems
- Saltmarsh habitats around the mouths of the Caboolture River and Burpengary Creek
- Extensive intertidal sand and mud flats
- Seasonal seagrass meadows.

Fisheries and other values

The FHA protects fish habitats that provide important nursery and feeding areas for fish and crustaceans and that contribute to maintaining fisheries productivity for local fishing activities. The FHA is managed to

protect fisheries resources and maintain the ecological functions of fish habitats for future generations. The FHA lies within the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland.

Current management arrangements

The Deception Bay declared FHA protects fish habitats and fisheries resources and is managed under Fisheries legislation. Plan FHA-013 (Revision 3) shows the management levels that protect fish habitats in the Caboolture River, creeks, and foreshore areas extending south to Deception Bay. The FHA excludes the area of the channel that enters the Caboolture River that is marked by aids to navigation. All FHAs may be accessed for legal recreational, traditional and commercial fishing, and boating activities.

For further information on declared FHAs visit the Business Queensland website at https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/fisheries/development/fish-habitat-area

What parts of the FHA are proposed to be amended?

The proposed amendment would exclude parts of the existing FHA required for future vessel access and marina infrastructure associated with the North Harbour PDA. The changes to the FHA are being considered to accommodate development associated with the PDA, to include the proposed future:

- Extension of the existing navigation channel for vessel access upstream to the PDA
- Capital dredging works
- Construction of a marina entrance through the riverbank
- Infrastructure for a proposed marina water intake.

Revision of the management A area upstream of the Caboolture River mouth to change it to a management B area is being considered to accommodate other development that may be proposed in the future.

Figure 2 provides an overview of the proposed amendments to parts of the FHA that are being considered.

What happens if the FHA is amended?

If the proposed amendments proceed, development and planning approvals would still be required before any future works could commence. Any proposed development would continue to be subject to relevant assessment and approval processes under applicable legislation.

Have your say

Community members and stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Deception Bay declared Fish Habitat Area.

Consultation period: 3 November – 14 December 2026

Closing date for submissions: 14 December 2026

How to make a submission: Submissions can be lodged via Economic Development Queensland at https://www.yoursay.edq.qld.gov.au/north-harbour-pda

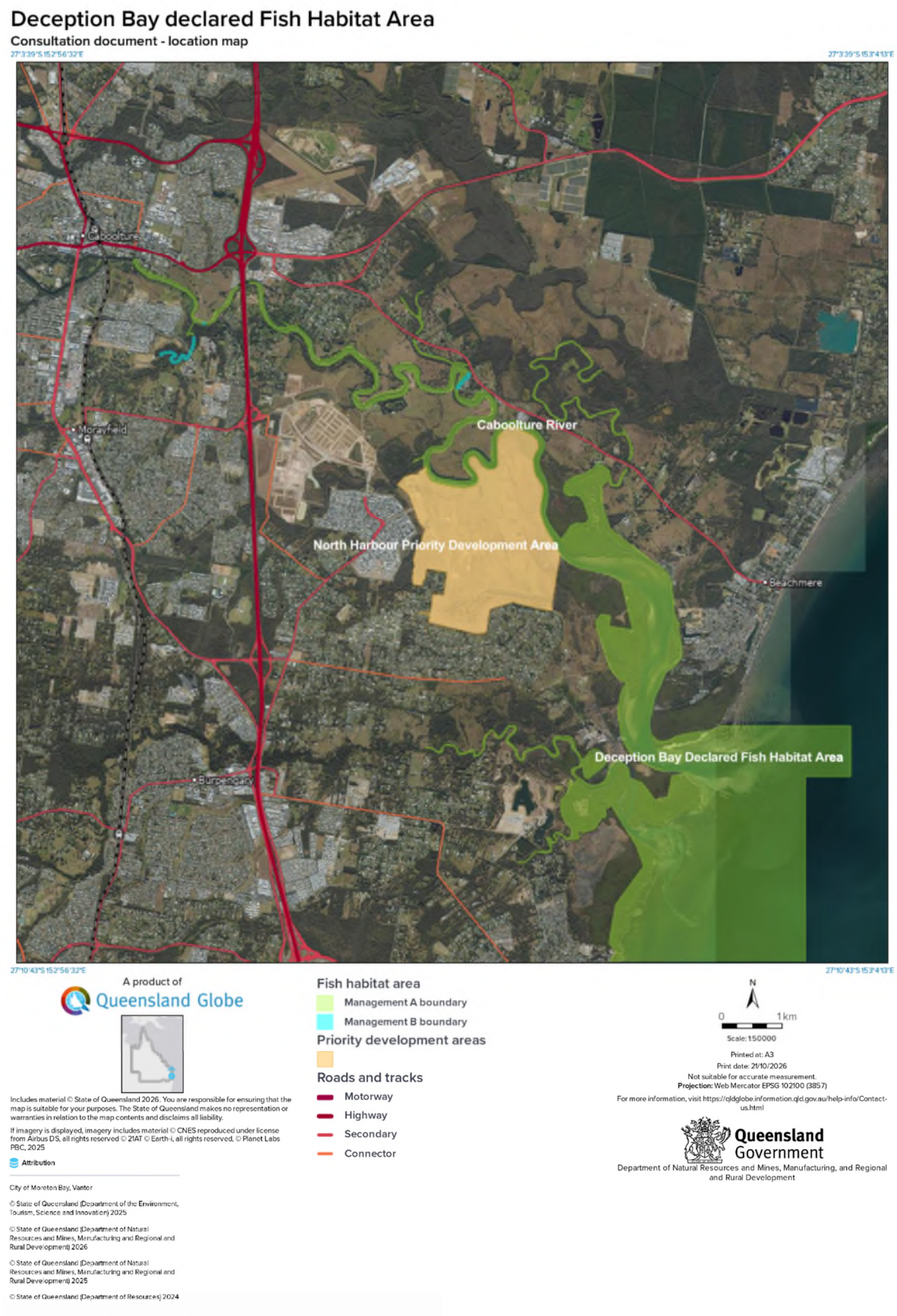


Figure 1 Locations of the Deception Bay declared Fish Habitat Area and North Harbour Priority Development Area.

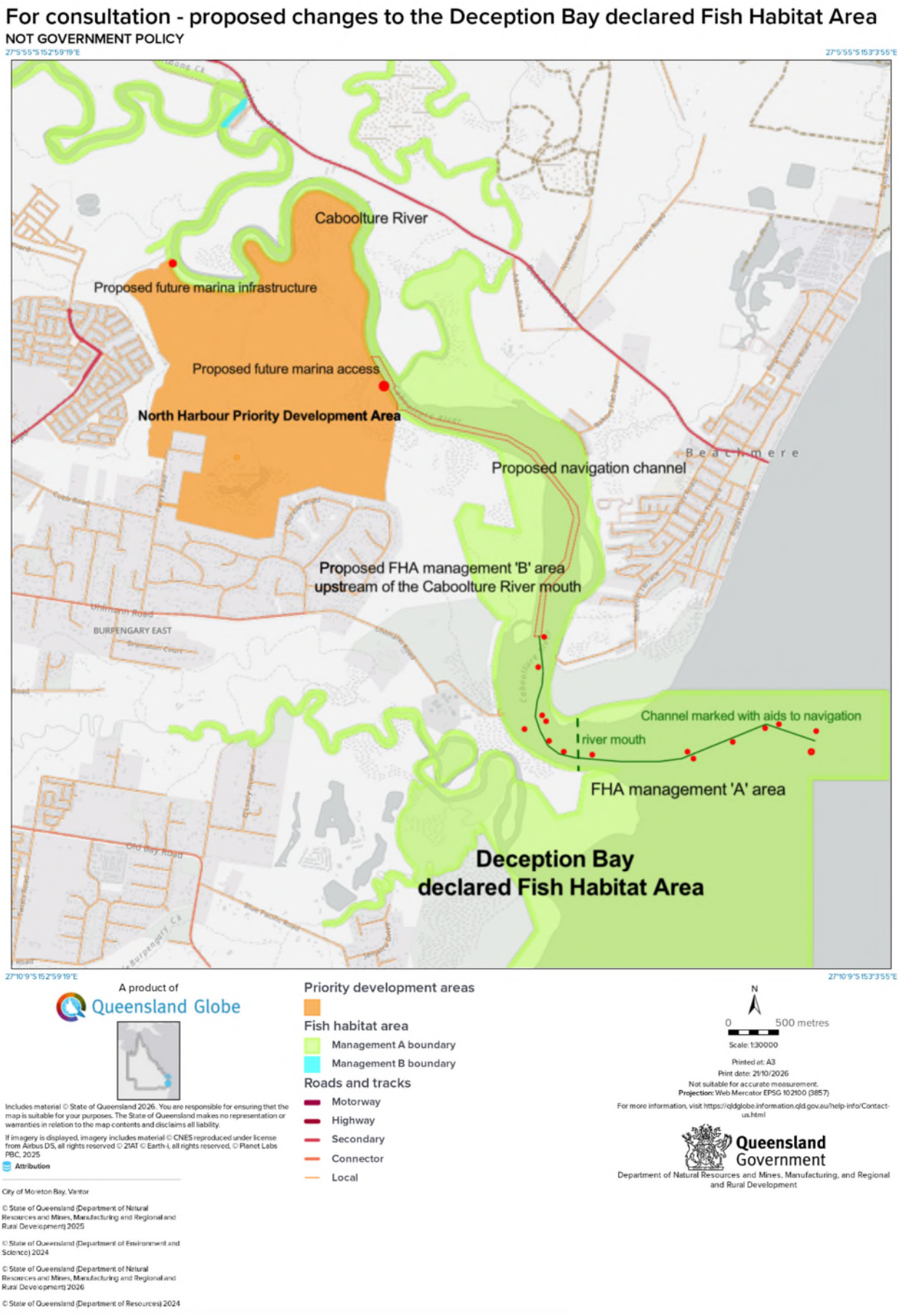


Figure 2 Proposed changes to the Deception Bay declared FHA are being considered for revoking an area for a proposed navigation channel and future marina access, and revision of part of the FHA to become a management B area upstream of the Caboolture River mouth.