1. In December 2002, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a national review of the regulation, reporting and security surrounding the storage, sale and handling of hazardous materials. The review was initiated to assist counter-terrorism efforts by limiting opportunities for, and enhancing detection of, the illegal/unauthorised use of hazardous materials, including ammonium nitrate; radiological sources; harmful biological materials; and hazardous chemicals.
2. A Review of Radiological Materials was undertaken to identify means for limiting the misuse of radiological materials that pose a security risk. At the conclusion of this review, a Report on the Regulation and Control of Radiological Material was released in November 2006.
3. On 13 April 2007, COAG agreed to a National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security Strategy to strengthen and enhance Australia’s existing national counter-terrorism arrangements. As part of this strategy COAG also agreed that the recommendations of the Review of Radiological Materials be implemented to ensure that each jurisdiction’s radiation safety legislation provides the required legal basis to regulate the secure storage, possession, use and transport of certain radiological materials to minimise the risk that such material can be misused by terrorists.
4. In Queensland, the principal piece of legislation that regulates the possession, use, acquisition, relocation, disposal and transportation of radiation sources is the *Radiation Safety Act 1999.*
5. The Radiation Safety Amendment Bill 2009 has been prepared to amend the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* to give effect to COAG’s decision that each jurisdiction implement a range of security measures to decrease the risk of persons being able to gain unauthorised access to, or acquisition of, a radioactive source for malicious purposes.
6. Cabinet approved that the Radiation Safety Amendment Bill 2009 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Radiation Safety Amendment Bill 2009](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)