1. In August 2009, the Government released the Integrity and Accountability in Queensland discussion paper to promote public discussion on improving Queensland’s integrity and accountability framework. The consultation on the paper highlighted the importance of the Legislative Assembly possessing and maintaining a high standard of scrutiny over the legislative process.
2. In response to this feedback, a bipartisan parliamentary Committee System Review Committee was established to review the role of Queensland’s parliamentary committees in contrast to committees in other Australian and international jurisdictions.
3. The Committee considered timely and cost-effective ways in which the Queensland parliamentary committees could more effectively evaluate legislative proposals.
4. In December 2010, the Committee tabled its report on the inquiry titled Review of the Queensland Parliamentary Committee System. Amongst other things, the Report recommended significant changes to the parliamentary committee system, based on a system of portfolio-based committees.
5. The Government responded to the Report in March 2011. In its response, the Government supported the majority of the recommendations made by the Committee, including the establishment of portfolio-based committees.
6. In April 2011, Cabinet approved that the Parliament of Queensland (Reform and Modernisation) Amendment Bill 2011 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly and on 5 April 2011 the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction introduced the Bill.
7. While the Bill establishes a legislative framework for the establishment of portfolio committees, the number, titles and portfolio areas to be allocated to the portfolio committees are to be established by the Parliament in its Standing Rules and Orders. This process was recommended by the Committee and was supported by the Government.
8. Cabinet approved the Government’s proposed new parliamentary committee structure which the Government will bring forward for the Parliament’s consideration for inclusion in its Standing Rules and Orders.
9. *Attachments*
* [Proposed parliamentary committee structure tabled in the Parliament by the Chair of Committee of the Legislative Assembly](Attachments/5311T4206.pdf)
* [Government’s proposed new parliamentary committee structure to be put to the Parliament for consideration of inclusion in Standing Orders](Attachments/proposed%20committee%20structure.pdf)