1. The review delivers against the Government’s 100-day election commitment (Number 301) to undertake a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of mandatory environmental inclusions such as rainwater tanks, and its Six Month Action Plan commitment to review laws mandating rainwater tanks on new buildings by the end of 2012.
2. Water saving targets for new houses and new commercial and industrial buildings have been required under Queensland Development Code (QDC) 4.2 and QDC 4.3 since 2007 and 2008 respectively.
3. Rainwater tanks were the most common option chosen for compliance with QDC 4.2, although other options are available. New buildings currently comprise around 1.3 per cent of the State’s total building stock per year.
4. An analysis by the Department of Housing and Public Works was reviewed by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).
5. Local governments will be able to ‘opt-in’ to QDC 4.2 and QDC 4.3 by applying to the Minster for Housing and Public Works provided they can demonstrate a net benefit to the community.
6. Cabinet noted the results of the Queensland Competition Authority report on the proposed repeal of water saving regulations.
7. Cabinet approved the repeal of the existing water savings targets, but allowing local governments to ‘opt-in’ where a positive cost benefit can be demonstrated.
8. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Competition Authority report](Attachments/Report.pdf)