1. Income management was announced in the 2011–12 Federal Budget as part of the *Better Futures, Local Solutions* place-based measures, with the Commonwealth Government investing $117.5 million over five years to introduce income management in five new trial locations across Australia, including Rockhampton and Logan in Queensland.
2. Income management is a budgeting tool being implemented by the Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Human Services (Centrelink), that changes the way people receive welfare support payments to prioritise essential items such as food, clothing and housing. By stabilising their finances, people are able to focus on changing their behaviours and, ultimately, improve their prospects of employment.
3. There are three place-based income management measures that form part of the Commonwealth’s trials:
* Voluntary Income Management – Any person receiving eligible income support payments from Centrelink can request to have 50 per cent of their income managed for a minimum period of 13 weeks, until they choose to opt out of income management;
* Vulnerable Income Management – Centrelink social workers will identify clients who are experiencing financial hardship or vulnerability to have 50 per cent of their income managed for a minimum period of 13 weeks until they can demonstrate to Centrelink that they no longer meet the vulnerability criteria; and
* Child Protection Income Management – targeted toward families within the tertiary child protection system. Eligible clients will have up to 70 per cent of their income managed for a minimum period of 13 weeks and they can remove their consent to participate in income management after this initial period.
1. Queensland’s participation in the Logan and Rockhampton trials has been negotiated with the Commonwealth Government and is reflected in the Bilateral Agreement and associated Schedules. The period of the Agreement is from the date of execution to 30 June 2016.
2. Cabinet endorsed:
* Queensland’s participation in the Commonwealth Government’s Income Management trials in the Logan and Rockhampton local government areas from 1 July 2012;
* a model for Child Protection Income Management where agreement of the person is required to include income management as a component of a child protection case plan for their child;
* execution of the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments and the attached Schedules; and
* that an evaluation report on the trials be provided in mid 2013, with a full evaluation presented in 2015.