1. The main purpose of the *Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009* (the Act)is to recognise the rights of people with disability to be accompanied by guide, hearing or assistance dogs in public places, public passenger vehicles and places of accommodation. The Act also ensures the quality and accountability of guide, hearing and assistance dog trainers.
2. In September 2013, a full review of the Act commenced to ensure the Act continues to deliver on its objectives for people with disability as well as industry.
3. A stakeholder review panel was established to assist in the review of the Act, and the panel’s recommendations form the basis of the proposed reforms. The panel consisted of government and non-government representatives, including peak/advocacy bodies, tourism and housing agencies and a cross-section of sector representatives.
4. Eight recommendations have been made in response to the review. The recommendations focus on improving the overall effectiveness of the Act by streamlining and improving administrative processes for both guide, hearing and assistance dog users and trainers; removing duplication around issuing handler’s identity cards; and better communicating the Act to businesses and community.
5. Cabinet approved implementation of the eight review recommendations (following the stakeholder panel review).
6. Cabinet approved further targeted consultation with interested stakeholders to implement the review recommendations.
7. *Attachments*
* Nil.