1. In December 2014, the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee tabled Report No. 59, ‘Inquiry into Coastal Sea Freight’.
2. The Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee made 16 recommendations as practical strategies that aim to facilitate the development of a robust coastal shipping service along the Queensland coastline.
3. The Report concluded a regular sea freight service along the Queensland coast would provide an environmentally sustainable alternative to road and rail freight with considerable benefits for the Queensland economy including: reducing road congestion; improving road safety by taking oversize cargo off the roads; reducing road maintenance costs; providing resilience to the transport supply chain in times of natural disaster; and providing flow on benefits to the drive tourism industry and defence sectors.
4. A coastal shipping service would produce lower emissions than land based modes of transport, and will not require additional dredging of the ports proposed for servicing. The relatively smaller ship sizes contemplated for use in providing the service in comparison with those currently in use, when combined with the relatively low frequency (weekly) of port visits is deemed to present a low risk shipping option which is in keeping with the strong Government commitments to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
5. Of the 16 recommendations in the Report, the Queensland Government response fully supports ten recommendations, partially supports one recommendation, notes four recommendations, and does not support one recommendation.
6. Cabinet approved the Queensland Government response to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee Report No. 59 entitled ‘Inquiry into Coastal Sea Freight’.
7. *Attachments*
* [Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee Report No. 59 entitled ‘Inquiry into Coastal Sea Freight’](Attachments/report.pdf)
* [Queensland Government Response to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee Report No. 59 entitled ‘Inquiry into Coastal Sea Freight’](Attachments/Response.PDF)