1. In July 2008, the Productivity Commission Report on Chemicals and Plastics Regulation recommended that an integrated review of explosives legislation, regulations and the Australian Explosives Code be undertaken to deliver national consistency. In December 2012, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that the harmonisation of explosives regulation would continue to be progressed by the then Select Council on Workplace Relations ‘where there were clear benefits to be derived’.
2. On behalf of ministers for workplace relations and work health and safety (the former Select Council on Workplace Relations), Safe Work Australia is managing the development of an approach to achieve nationally consistent explosives legislation. The objective of the reform is to obtain an agreed national approach to regulating explosives which delivers outcomes including: an improved regime in regard to public safety and national security; reducing red tape and improving business competition; achieving consistent regimes for licensing and authorising explosives; and improving industry practices.
3. Queensland is the largest user of explosives in Australia, using approximately 40 per cent of all explosives used nationwide, predominately in the mining industry. In Queensland, explosives are regulated under the *Explosives Act 1999* and managed by the Explosives Inspectorate within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, under the responsibility of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The Queensland Government’s participation in the national harmonisation process aligns with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines’ focus on achieving a more nationally consistent approach to the regulation of explosives to cut red tape, and improve efficiency, safety and security.
4. Cabinet approved Queensland’s participation in the national harmonisation of explosives legislation process.
5. *Attachments*
* Nil.