1. The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) is an independent statutory authority consisting of members appointed by the Governor in Council. It is established under the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (QCA Act).
2. As the State’s independent economic regulator, the QCA’s primary role is to ensure monopoly businesses operating in Queensland, particularly in the provision of key infrastructure, do not abuse their market power through unfair pricing or restrictive access arrangements. The QCA achieves this through investigating and monitoring pricing practices of certain monopoly businesses and regulating third party access to essential infrastructure such as railways and port channels.
3. Section 209 of the QCA Act provides that the QCA Board must be made up of at least three members, including a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, who collectively have appropriate knowledge that includes commerce and economics. The approval of Governor in Council is required to appoint members to the QCA.
4. Vacancies for the roles of Deputy Chairperson and member were required to be filled to meet the minimum three members required under the QCA Act.
5. Dr Flavio Menezes was proposed for appointment as the new Deputy Chairperson for a three year term. Dr Menezes is a leading Queensland economist, currently a Professor of Economics at the University of Queensland, and is widely published in competition and economic regulation.
6. Ms Madeline Brennan QC was proposed for appointment as a member for a three year term.
Ms Brennan has significant legal and commercial expertise (with a Master of Laws and as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia).
7. Cabinet endorsed that the following part-time candidates be recommended to Governor in Council for appointment to the QCA Board for three-year terms commencing 9 April 2016:
* Dr Flavio Menezes to the position of Deputy Chairperson; and
* Ms Madeline Brennan QC to the position of member.
1. *Attachments*
* Nil.