1. On 9 August 2016, the Premier and Minister for the Arts announced an independent review into the parole system in Queensland following the alleged murder of an elderly Townsville woman by a man on parole following his release from the Townsville Correctional Centre that same day. Mr Walter Sofronoff QC was appointed to conduct the review.
2. On 1 December 2016, Mr Sofronoff delivered his report to the Premier and Minister for the Arts.
3. The Queensland Parole System Review Report makes a range of recommendations to improve Queensland’s parole system, including:
* a full-time, centralised, professional Parole Board;
* reform of sentencing laws relating to parole;
* improvement to assessment and management of offenders in prison, including use of validated tools and an end-to-end case management system;
* an increase in the number and diversity of rehabilitation treatments including expansion of opioid substitution treatment (OST) programs; and
* an increase in the number and professionalism of probation and parole staff.
1. The proposed Government response supports, or supports in principle, 89 of the 91 recommendations. Recommendations 7 and 58 are not supported.
2. Cabinet noted the Queensland Parole System Review Report.
3. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Report.
4. Cabinet approved the public release of the Queensland Parole System Review Report and Government response.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 into the Legislative Assembly.
6. Cabinet notedthat a Whole of Government Queensland Parole System Review Implementation Committee would be established to inform and oversee the implementation of the Queensland Parole System Review recommendations.
7. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Parole System Review Report](Attachments/Report.pdf)
* [Government Response to the Report](Attachments/Response.pdf)
* [Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)