1. In May 2007 the Queensland Ombudsman informed the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy of his intention to conduct an investigation of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate. The Queensland Mines Inspectorate is responsible for developing and administering legislation and policy governing coal and metalliferous mine safety and health issues in Queensland. The Ombudsman’s final report contained 44 recommendations and was tabled in Parliament in June 2008.
2. In general, the Ombudsman concluded that the administrative actions of the Department of Mines and Energy relating to its compliance activities are reasonable, in accordance with the relevant legislation, and in accordance with its policies and procedures.
3. While the Ombudsman concluded that the Mines Inspectorate is independent, recommendations were made aimed at addressing the perception of a lack of independence of the Inspectorate. It is proposed that a statutory position of Director of Mine Safety and Health be established under the relevant safety and health legislation administered by the Department of Mines and Energy with the appropriate regulatory functions and powers vested in this role.
4. Cabinet approved the creation of a statutory position of Director of Mine Safety and Health, with the appropriate regulatory functions and powers vested in this role, under the relevant safety and health legislation administered by the Department of Mines and Energy.
5. Cabinet approved amendments to the relevant safety and health legislation administered by the Department of Mines and Energy to include a provision requiring the Director of Mine Safety and Health to prepare an annual performance report to the Minister for Mines and Energy on mine safety and health issues and report on mine safety and health issues as they arise.
6. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Ombudsman Report 'The Regulation of Mine Safety in Queensland: A review of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate'](Attachments/5208T3688.pdf)