1. On 12 March 2008, the Premier announced that that a new civil and administrative tribunal was to commence in the second half of 2009 The new tribunal would deal with a range of matters currently dealt with by tribunals as well as some civil disputes (including small claims and minor debt matters) and a range of administrative decisions that are currently dealt with in the courts.
2. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) will have an original jurisdiction (hearing matters such as small claims, guardianship disputes, building disputes, retail shop lease disputes), a review jurisdiction (dealing with reviews of administrative decisions) and an appeal jurisdiction (internal appeals from decisions of the tribunal). It will be headed by a Supreme Court judge as president, a District Court judge as deputy president and have a number of full-time and sessional members.
3. Two Bills are required to create QCAT. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Bill 2009 creates the tribunal, contains comprehensive objects for the Act, contains the membership provisions and sets out the tribunal’s generic functions and powers. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Jurisdiction Provisions) Bill 2009 amends approximately 200 pieces of legislation to give QCAT jurisdiction to hear and decide matters that are currently are decided by the tribunals that are to be amalgamated into QCAT.
4. The tribunal is to commence operations on 1 December 2009.
5. Cabinet decided to approve the introduction, as cognate bills, of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Bill 2009 and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Jurisdiction Provisions) Amendment Bill 2009.
6. Attachments for release
* [Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Bill 2009](Attachments/QCAT%20Bill.pdf) and [explanatory notes](Attachments/QCAT%20Ex%20Notes.pdf)
* [Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Jurisdiction Provisions) Amendment Bill 2009](Attachments/QCAT%20jurisdiction%20Bill.pdf) and [explanatory notes](Attachments/QCAT%20jurisdiction%20Ex%20Notes.pdf)