1. On 17 August 2009 the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission handed down its Interim Report (the Report). The Report makes 51 recommendations which are confined to immediate issues for implementation by the Victorian and the Commonwealth governments prior to the 2009-2010 Victorian bushfire season with a final report from the Commission due on 30 July 2010.
2. Without diminishing the importance of the Commission’s recommendations it is important to recognise that the bushfire threat in Queensland is not at the same level as southern states. In Queensland the priority of risks to the State are flood, storm surges, cyclones and finally bushfire. As a consequence, recommendations will not necessarily carry the same weight of relevance in Queensland.
3. The Department of Community Safety (DCS) has been closely monitoring the outcomes from the Commission to assess the applicability of any recommendations to Queensland. The DCS has now completed its preliminary review of the Report’s recommendations and has identified a number of recommendations that are relevant to Queensland or warrant further consideration.
4. These recommendations concern communicating messages of bushfire risk and preparedness to the public, the Stay or Go policy and the feasibility of refuges. Further consultation, led by the Department of Community Safety, will occur with other key government agencies prior to any significant legislative or policy amendments are made.
5. Cabinet noted the implications for Queensland arising from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission’s Interim Report.
6. Attachments: NIL