1. The Queensland Opposition Handbook sets out the provisions and guidelines for paid advertising in the media that is an official cost of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.
2. Based on a request by the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Integrity Commissioner reviewed whether the current policy and processes regarding opposition advertising adequately ensure that public funds are being expended in a way that will meet community expectations about legitimate opposition business.
3. After undertaking an extensive search of opposition funding mechanisms across other jurisdictions including the Commonwealth of Australia, all other states, New Zealand and Great Britain, the Integrity Commissioner recommended that it was appropriate that the operational responsibility for approval of opposition advertising should remain with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
4. Further, the Integrity Commissioner recommended that the guidelines for opposition advertising should be similar to those of the Commonwealth.
5. The Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct has been amended to ensure the same guidelines apply equally to both government advertising and opposition advertising.
6. Cabinet noted the amendment to the Queensland Opposition Handbook in relation to Opposition advertising.
7. Cabinet approved the amendment to the Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct.
8. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct](Attachments/advert-code-of-conduct%5B1%5D.pdf)
* [Queensland Opposition Handbook](Attachments/qld-opposition-handbook%5B1%5D.pdf)