1. In 2008, the former Queensland Government announced an oil shale policy that included a 20 year moratorium on developing the McFarlane oil shale deposit (near Proserpine); the development of a demonstration plant by Queensland Energy Resources (QER) at the Stuart deposit near Gladstone, and that no other oil shale development would be progressed in Queensland until QER had reported to government on the technical, environmental and local community impacts of the new plant in Stuart and demonstrated the technology for extracting oil from shale.
2. In 2004, QER purchased the Stuart assets and commenced operations in September 2011 on a small scale demonstration plant. In September 2012, QER submitted its final performance report to Government, with a view to gaining government acceptance for the technology, and support for commercial development of the resource.
3. The Government has reviewed the existing oil shale policy in the context of the QER report, the extremely limited commercial application of oil shale in Australia and overseas, and the need for the technology to meet the environmental standards required for a commercial scale industry.
4. Cabinet approved a new oil shale policy that:
   1. recognises the strategic importance of oil shale to contribute to energy security, and encourages private sector investigation into, and investment in, high quality oil shale extraction technologies;
   2. allows, in general, for the consideration and development of oil shale deposits in Queensland on a project by project basis;
   3. recognises that highly theoretical and largely untested approaches to oil shale processing (such as underground retorting) have the potential to present significant environmental and financial risks to the state;
   4. notes that levels of uncertainty associated with oil shale extraction means that the environmental risks, feasibility and likely performance of oil shale, proposals should be determined through a detailed environmental impact statement;
   5. encourages the incorporation of best practice environmental management and includes a trial stage where the processing technology is unproven in Queensland; and
   6. retains the 20-year moratorium on the McFarlane deposit and that it be reviewed prior to its expiry on 17 August 2028.
5. Cabinet approved the public release of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection review, subject to removal of information that is commercial-in-confidence.
6. *Attachments*
   * [Oil Shale Policy](Attachments/Oil%20Shale%20Policy.pdf)
   * [Department of Environment and Heritage Protection review](Attachments/DEHP%20review.pdf)