1. The Queensland Government considers that Queensland regional capitals should be well planned with the right infrastructure in the right places to support a growing population and strong, prosperous and diverse regional economies. As the most decentralised state in Australia, Queensland has taken every opportunity available to unlock regional productivity and economic growth.
2. On 11 February 2015, the Senate moved that the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia be referred to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 1 December 2015.
3. The Terms of Reference for the inquiry seeks:
4. an assessment of current demographic trends and the changing role of regional capitals
5. an analysis of current funding provided to regional capitals
6. an analysis of the benefit of additional funding regional capitals could receive based on population, demand for services and their strategic importance for the region, state or country
7. investment challenges and opportunities to maintain or grow regional capitals, including infrastructure, community and human services, communications and natural resources
8. incentives and policy measures that would support sustainable growth in regional capitals
9. the impact the changing environment will have on regional capitals
10. any other related matters.
11. The Queensland Government has prepared a response to the inquiry into the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia which outlines the significance of Queensland’s regional capitals to the state as a whole and that the Queensland Government supports, funds and encourages the development of regional capitals in a manner that reflects that importance.
12. Cabinet approved the Queensland Government response to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs Transport References Committee inquiry into the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia.
13. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Government response](Attachments/Response.PDF)