1. The Government has committed to review the current processes for the appointment of judicial officers in Queensland, and to consult extensively with stakeholders in the development of a protocol as to how judicial appointments ought to be made.
2. To enhance the judicial appointments process in Queensland, a discussion paper was released in October 2015 seeking feedback on:

* the skills, attributes and qualities (both personal, and professional) required of a judicial officer;
* strategies that could be adopted for identifying suitable candidates for appointment; and
* the best process for assessing judicial candidates.

1. Having regard to the results of consultation, a protocol for judicial appointments was developed and is now published on the Courts website along with the details of judicial vacancies at any given time. The key features of the protocol are as follows:

* an advisory panel comprising a retired judicial officer (as chair), representatives of the   
  Bar Association of Queensland and Queensland Law Society, and up to two community representatives;
* criteria for appointment;
* a register of expressions of interest for judicial appointment;
* the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Attorney-General) may nominate candidates for the advisory panel’s consideration, including those raised for consideration through consultation with heads of jurisdiction;
* a shortlist of recommended and suitable candidates presented by the advisory panel to the Attorney-General;
* mandatory consultation by the Attorney-General with the relevant head of jurisdiction, both before making nominations to the advisory panel and after receiving the advisory panel’s shortlist; and
* the Attorney-General retains discretion as to recommendations for appointment.

1. Cabinet approved the protocol for judicial appointments in Queensland.
2. *Attachments*

* [Protocol for judicial appointments in Queensland](Attachments/Protocol.PDF)