1. In August 2019, 65 per cent of Queensland was drought declared under State Government processes (32 shires and four part shires). This was down from 88.7 per cent in early 2017, however, some shires had been drought declared since mid-2013.
2. Rainfall across many parts of southern Queensland over the past 12-24 months had been extremely low.
3. The August to October 2019 climate outlook suggested a drier than average three months was likely for large parts of Australia.
4. Cabinet noted the impact of the current drought in regional economies and communities.
5. Cabinet noted the critically low water availability in areas such as the Southern Downs Regional Council area.
6. Cabinet approved that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet form a working group to develop a strategy for implementation if conditions deteriorate.
7. Cabinet approved that the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries sign an updated agreement for the administration of an extension to the Federal Government on Farm-Emergency Water Infrastructure Scheme to include permanent tree cropping operations.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil.