1. Traditionally, the bushfire season in Queensland commences in the north of the State in August and concludes in December of each year, dependent on seasonal conditions. A number of factors can influence the length and severity of the bushfire season, including the timing and nature of the previous wet season and the current climate outlook.
2. The outlook for June to August 2021 indicates a slower start to the fire season due to mild and wet conditions experienced for the first six months of 2021. The rainfall outlook for winter is average for the far north and Cape York Peninsula and above average across the remainder of the state. These conditions have resulted in an assessment of normal fire potential for the entire state.
3. Operation Cool Burn started on 1 April 2021 and would traditionally conclude on 31 August 2021, pending weather conditions at the time. However, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and its partners are transitioning to a 365 day a year mitigation program.
4. This change enables bushfire mitigation activities to be conducted year-round across Queensland, commensurate with the variable fuel and weather conditions and safety of undertaking such activities. The year-round program also enables greater flexibility for land managers and owners to conduct mitigation activities in a changing climate that is leading to more protracted bushfire seasons and often limiting windows for hazard reduction burning.
5. Cabinet noted the 2021 bushfire season update and preparation and mitigation activities.
6. *Attachments*:
* Nil.