1. The Queensland Government inherited responsibility for the management of Linc Energy’s underground coal gasification (UCG) site in Hopeland after the company entered liquidation.
2. The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has been undertaking extensive groundwater monitoring on and surrounding the former Linc Energy site in the Hopeland area since 2015.
3. Landholders have consistently been provided results for bores sampled by the department on their properties. Importantly, no benzene or cyanide have been found in those landholder bores surrounding the former Linc Energy site to date.
4. Benzene contaminants at levels above drinking water standards were found in groundwater monitoring in one monitoring bore and cyanide above drinking water standards in groundwater monitoring in both monitoring bores on Kummerows Road, just outside the Linc Energy site, but levels are trending down. These bores are for monitoring purposes only. They are not used for drinking or stock water, or for irrigation.
5. The current risk to nearby landholders existing bores has been assessed as very low to negligible. At present, groundwater is flowing back towards the Linc site.
6. Groundwater monitoring results from the former Linc Energy site were not previously published online broadly due to the ongoing litigation. The Department of Environment and Science has recently published some results online, and will continue to proactively publish information and results.
7. Groundwater will continue to be sampled at and around the former Linc Energy site to monitor trends and assess risk. Results will be provided to adjacent landholders and published online.
8. The Government is committed to being transparent and providing information to the community and has committed to the development and implementation of a roadmap for improving transparency of monitoring data over time.
9. Cabinet noted information on the groundwater contamination on and around the former Linc Energy site and the steps being taken to keep the community informed.
10. Cabinet approved to further monitoring results being provided to adjacent landholders and publishing of information online.
11. *Attachments*:
* Nil.