1. The Department of Environment and Science (DES) engaged retired Planning and Environment Court judge, Mr Richard Jones, and former Senior Crown Prosecutor Susan Hedge, to undertake an independent review into the adequacy of existing powers and penalties under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).
2. The review has established that, to a significant extent, the EP Act contains adequate powers and penalties to, in most instances, enforce environmental obligations and reduce the risk of environmental harm, and that DES has a range of suitable statutory tools to use for enforcement, investigation and prosecution.
3. The review included 18 recommendations for changes to the EP Act to improve the effectiveness of existing enforcement powers and tools, without making fundamental changes.
4. The recommendations included introducing an offence for contravening the general environmental duty (GED), further emphasising human health, safety and wellbeing under the EP Act, and expanding the principles underpinning the EP Act. All recommendations are supported, with one supported in-principle.
5. Building on the recommendations of the review, DES has also proposed introducing a duty to restore environmental harm to complement the GED.
6. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Independent Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) Report.
7. Cabinet approved the public release of the Independent Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) Report.
8. Cabinet approved the public release of the Government response to the Independent Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) Report.
9. *Attachments*:
* [Independent Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) Report](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Apr/ResponseEPAReview/Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Government response to recommendations](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Apr/ResponseEPAReview/Attachments/Response.PDF)