1. In 1938, Dr John Bradfield, a Queensland civil engineer, proposed a scheme that would divert flows from the Wet Tropics and Burdekin River catchments to irrigate and drought proof much of Western Queensland and as far south as South Australia.
2. The Bradfield scheme aimed to capture water from North Queensland and transport it to the drier regions, either to the south, west or both. Several reviews of the Bradfield Scheme and its iterations have been conducted.
3. The Queensland Government established the Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel (the panel) on 2 September 2020. The independent panel was engaged to assess the financial, economic, environmental, social and technical viability of the Bradfield Scheme or Bradfield-like concepts.
4. The panel found that there are opportunities to focus on transformative development, such as regional water grids (or ‘mini-Bradfields’) and the effective local use of water resources in northern and central Queensland.
5. The Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel Report (Report’s) conclusions and recommendations centre on the finding that the Bradfield scheme, or similar concepts, are not feasible and do not represent the best outcomes for communities using the State’s water resources.
6. The Government Response accepts or accepts-in-principle, the Report’s eight recommendations.
7. A number of matters have informed the Response, including:
	* the Australian Government’s, “An assessment of contemporary variations of the Bradfield Scheme”, prepared by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research CSIRO),
	* key findings of the public CSIRO report and recent government investment decisions as reflected in the 2022 State Budget.
	* the Government’s decision that the Environmental Impact Statement and Detailed Business Case for raising Burdekin Falls Dam will proceed on the basis of a two-metre raise, delivering an additional yield of 150,000 megalitres of water per year (a 13 per cent increase).
8. Cabinet noted that the Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel Report and Queensland Government Response be published.
9. Cabinet noted the Queensland Government Response considers the CSIRO’s assessment as part of the Queensland Government’s response to the report.
10. *Attachments*:
	* [Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel Report](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Nov/Bradfield/Attachments/Report.PDF)
	* [Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel Report - Summary](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Nov/Bradfield/Attachments/Summary.PDF)
	* [Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel Report – Queensland Government Response](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2022/Nov/Bradfield/Attachments/Response.PDF)