1. The Queensland Government has significant commitments under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy, and at the state level to reform Queensland’s regulatory development processes and arrangements.
2. The Queensland Office for Regulatory Efficiency has developed the Regulatory Assessment Statement (RAS) system to satisfy these COAG and state commitments and ensure that Queensland’s regulatory development system benchmarks well against other Australian jurisdictions.
3. The RAS system aims to improve the quality of future regulation in Queensland by putting in place processes and arrangements to ensure necessary protections and safeguards without stifling innovation or productivity.
4. Improvements flowing from the RAS system are:

* integrates existing multiple impact assessment processes into a single, streamlined process;
* promotes consideration of regulatory best practice principles at all stages through the regulatory cycle;
* introduces a streamlined two level impact assessment effort proportional to the significance of the regulatory proposal including a cost-benefit analysis for all proposals with significant impact;
* strengthens assessment of compliance cost impacts on business, community and government by mandating their quantification, except where negligible or trivial;
* supports more effective consultation and engagement with key affected stakeholders throughout the regulatory cycle with a minimum consultation period and public notification of consultation opportunities;
* provides greater transparency and accountability for regulatory outcomes through the Treasurer’s Exemption in exceptional circumstances, including a review within two years of significant regulatory proposals where a RAS was not completed and a review of regulation at least every 10 years; and
* applies to all primary, subordinate and quasi regulation as well as all government departments, agencies and statutory authorities. Possible categories of exemptions will be clarified in guidelines to be developed in consultation with agencies.

1. The RAS system will be progressively implemented from 31 March 2010.
2. Cabinet endorsed the Regulatory Assessment Statement system.
3. *Attachments:*

* Nil