1. On 24 May 2010, the Environment and Resources Committee issued an issues paper entitled “Growing Queensland’s Renewable Energy Electricity Sector”. This paper provides background information about the committee and its inquiry into opportunities and challenges for the Queensland Government associated with increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in Queensland.
2. Queensland has an abundance of renewable energy resources, including biomass, solar, wind, hydroelectricity and geothermal energy resources. Renewable energy affords substantial benefits to Queensland through an opportunity to mitigate growth in greenhouse gas emissions, develop an innovative ‘green’ industry and workforce including in our regional areas, and contribute to addressing the challenges of demand management.
3. The key driver for new investment in renewable energy to 2020 is the national Renewable Energy Target (RET). The Queensland Renewable Energy Plan (QREP) was released in June 2009 and forms a comprehensive economic and industry development strategy aimed at accelerating the growth of the renewable energy sector in Queensland. The QREP aims to leverage at least 20 per cent of investment generated through the national RET to secure up to $3.5 billion in investment in Queensland’s renewable energy industry.
4. Cabinet approved a whole-of-Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Growing Queensland’s Renewable Energy Electricity Sector to be submitted to the Environment and Resources Committee.
5. *Attachments*
* [Environment and Resources Committee Issues Paper “Growing Queensland’s Renewable Energy Electricity Sector”](Attachments/ERC%20IP%20Paper%20No.%202%20-%20May%2010%5B1%5D.pdf)
* [Queensland Government Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Growing Queensland’s Renewable Energy Electricity Sector](Attachments/Sub63_QldGovt%5B1%5D.pdf)