1. The South East Queensland Water Strategy (Strategy) is a 50 year plan to ensure a sustainable, efficient and secure water supply for South East Queensland. It is based on the key principles of conserving water, being prepared and managing water efficiently.
2. The revised draft Strategy was released from 20 November 2009 to 12 February 2010 for consultation. During the consultation period, a total of 3,410 submissions were received. All submissions were considered in finalising the Strategy
3. Key features of the revised Strategy include:
* Conserving water through consistent Permanent Water Conservation Measures, the challenge to residents of Target 200, and improved water efficiencies in business and industry operations and commercial buildings. Local water supplies such as rainwater tanks for all new houses and most new industrial and commercial buildings are also an integral element.
* Being prepared and supply ready. The Strategy is the plan to be supply ready and to minimise the impacts of climate change, drought and population growth thorough planned investment, prudent management and a Drought Response Plan. Current forecasts indicate another water supply source to meet growth is unlikely to be required until about 2022. However if Target 200 is achieved, this can be deferred by a further five years. A diverse range of supply options and new technologies are being investigated to make sure we can use the best option available.
* Managing water efficiently. The SEQ Water Grid is now operational. The water industry has been streamlined to ensure efficient management of the Grid and delivery of safe and secure water supplies to everyone. The Strategy also provides for additional water to be made available for rural producers and irrigators, when it’s not required for urban uses.
1. Desalination facilities will underpin future water security for South East Queensland. Based on existing knowledge and technology, desalination is the only practical climate independent supply to fill any major supply gap either for a drought response or demand growth.
2. Cabinet noted the release of the *South East Queensland Water Strategy* (Strategy)*.*
3. *Attachments:*
	* [South East Queensland Water Strategy](Attachments/seqws-full%5B1%5D.pdf)