1. The Queensland Government has committed to the national Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Indigenous Reform Agreement to close the gap between the life outcomes and opportunities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their non-Indigenous counterparts, particularly in relation to life expectancy, under five years child mortality, access to early childhood education, literacy and numeracy, year 12 attainment, and employment. The Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments have committed a combined national total of $8.142 billion to address these issues. This investment commenced in 2008-2009 and is being progressively rolled out over 10 years.
2. It is noted that some 75% of Indigenous people live in urban and regional Queensland and around 15% of Indigenous Queenslanders live in the Cape York and Gulf regions. Only a small number of this 15% would be on outstations at any time.
3. The National Investment Principles in Remote Locations in Schedule E of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement specify that priority for enhanced infrastructure support and service provision should be directed to larger and more economically sustainable communities where secure land tenure exists.
4. Cabinet decided to adopt a policy position on outstations that includes:
* acknowledging the cultural significance of outstations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
* the priority focus on funding for infrastructure, including housing and related infrastructure, and service delivery for discrete Indigenous communities over the next decade being within the township areas in line with the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agenda: government service delivery will not include reliance on the use of outstations; and
* noting that Indigenous Queenslanders may continue to apply for Government grants and to seek assistance or access to business advice from Government agencies or the non-government sector in order to support activity on their traditional lands: any decision to live on outstations must be in the context that people will need to be self-sufficient.
1. *Attachments:*
* Nil