1. The Queensland Government has previously committed to increasing the numbers of women on Queensland Government boards, committees and councils. In 2006, the Government endorsed the *Women on Boards Strategy*, with the primary aim that, where possible, 50 per cent of new appointees to Queensland Government bodies should be women.
2. There are compelling reasons for achieving greater gender diversity in leadership positions across Australia’s public, private and non-government sectors. National and international research has consistently highlighted the organisational benefits associated with women in leadership roles, including the financial, social and environmental business outcomes.
3. The Office for Women has developed the *Women on Boards Strategy – Stage 2*. It provides evidence-based strategies to increase the numbers of board ready females and to assist government to make gender appropriate appointments. It takes a three pronged approach of: *Supporting Women*; *Supporting Agencies* and *Supporting the System* to achieve a target that by December 2014, 50 per cent of appointees to Queensland Government boards, committees and councils be women.
4. Cabinet approved:

* the target that by December 2014, 50 per cent of appointments to Queensland Government boards, committees and councils be women;
* amendments to the Cabinet Handbook to reflect the revised policy position; and
* the *Women on Boards Strategy – Stage 2* which contains a range of actions to achieve the target, including support for women, support for agencies and support for the system of appointments.

1. *Attachments*

* [*Women on Boards Strategy – Stage 2*](Attachments/Att%201%20-%20Women%20on%20Boards%20Strategy%20Stage%202.docx)