1. As part of its election commitments, the Government committed $3.5 million over four years to the Justice of the Peace (JP) program to enhance and refocus the role of JPs in the community.
2. As part of this commitment, a trial commenced in June 2013 to expand the role of JPs to hear minor civil disputes with a value of $5,000 or less and non-urgent residential tenancy matters in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).
3. The objectives of the trial are to:

* recognise the substantial voluntary contribution of JPs to the community and provide opportunities to improve, develop and expand their role;
* reduce the average time taken to finalise all minor civil dispute applications and improve the clearance rate for all minor civil dispute applications in the trial sites;
* reduce the cost of hearing these matters; and
* enable QCAT adjudicators and magistrates (who act as QCAT members in regional areas) to deal with more complex matters.

1. Cabinet endorsed that Mr Chris Mills OAM RFD and Mr William Thomas be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment as QCAT Justices of the Peace for a term of three years commencing from the day following Governor in Council approval.
2. *Attachments*

* Nil.