1. Gene technology activities in Australia are regulated through an integrated national legislative scheme which aims to protect the health and safety of people and the environment by identifying and managing risks.
2. State, Territory and Commonwealth legislation are all required to achieve a nationally consistent scheme to provide full regulatory coverage for gene technology.
3. Currently, Queensland’s gene technology legislation must be amended whenever the Commonwealth gene technology legislation is amended to ensure that all gene technology activities in Queensland are regulated consistently and that State government agencies, higher education institutions and sole traders are covered.
4. When the Queensland legislation is out of alignment with the Commonwealth legislation, a period of uncertainty and inconsistency exists for Queensland based research organisations.
5. The Gene Technology (Queensland) Bill 2016 replaces the existing Queensland gene technology legislation (i.e. *Gene Technology Act 2001* and *Gene Technology Regulation 2002*).
6. The Bill automatically applies the Commonwealth gene technology laws as laws of Queensland, with provision to ‘opt out’ of particular amendments to the Commonwealth law by regulation in instances where it is not in Queensland’s interests to adopt Commonwealth amendments.
7. The Bill applies the Commonwealth *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, criminal laws and administrative laws to the Act, as well as officer functions and powers under the Commonwealth gene technology laws.
8. Transitional provisions are included in the Bill to ensure a smooth changeover from the existing Queensland gene technology legislation to the new legislation.
9. The Bill improves clarity, consistency and certainty for Queensland State government agencies, higher education institutions and sole traders by providing an up-to-date legislative framework for Queensland’s biotechnology industry.
10. Cabinet approved that the Gene Technology (Queensland) Bill 2016 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
11. *Attachments*
* [Gene Technology (Queensland) Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)