1. Nationally, the 2019–20 bushfire season was catastrophic, with lives lost, properties destroyed and millions of hectares of land scorched. While New South Wales and Victoria were hardest hit, Queensland communities were also impacted, most significantly in the south and east of the state.
2. Between September and December 2019, 14 local government areas were activated for assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements following the Southern Queensland Bushfires and the Stradbroke Bushfires in September and the Eastern Queensland Bushfires in November and December.
3. Significant bushfire mitigation activities were undertaken in Queensland prior to the bushfire season, which are likely to have reduced the impact of fires across the state. It is anticipated that additional work to determine a Queensland Government policy response for areas identified with extreme risk of bushfire hazard will further mitigate bushfire risk.
4. Queensland’s extensive experience with disaster management enabled a rapid response to support impacted communities.
5. Cabinet noted that the 2019 Queensland bushfires had a catastrophic impact on many communities, however recovery efforts had been swift, and Queensland’s capability to manage future disasters has not been diminished.
6. Cabinet noted that the Australian Government had established a $2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund, to be administered by the newly established National Bushfire Recovery Agency over and above existing Category A, Category B and Category C measures.
7. *Attachments*
* Nil.