1. Since 2016, a number of reviews into elements of Queensland’s criminal justice system have considered the existing layers of accountability over Queensland’s places of detention and recommended the establishment of an independent inspectorate to oversee adult prisons, youth detention centres and police watch-houses. These reviews include theQueensland Parole System Review, the Independent Review of Youth Detention, Taskforce Flaxton: An examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland prisons and the Queensland Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism.
2. The Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 (the Bill) delivers on the Queensland Government’s commitment following the criminal justice reviews to establish the Inspector of Detention Services (the Inspector) as the independent inspector over prisons, work camps, community correction centres, youth detention centres and police watch-houses. The position of Inspector will be held by the Queensland Ombudsman, with staff from the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman supporting exercise of the Inspector’s functions.
3. The Inspector’s purpose is to promote the improvement of detention services and places of detention, with a focus on preventing harm by promoting and upholding the humane treatment and conditions of people detained. This purpose is to be achieved through the establishment of a framework for the review of detention services and inspections of places of detention, followed by independent and transparent reporting.
4. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021 into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*
* [Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)