1. Dangerous goods are substances or articles which due to their physical, chemical and toxicological properties, may present an acute risk to life, health, property and the environment, especially when being transported. They may be corrosive, flammable, explosive, toxic, radioactive, harmful to the environment, oxidizing or react adversely when brought into contact with other substances.
2. The Australian Dangerous Goods Code provides technical instructions and recommendations for the safe transport of dangerous goods by road and rail. The National Transport Commission released the 7th edition of the code in 2007 which brings Australia into line with changes to the UN Model Regulations. While primarily a revision exercise, the new code will bring significant benefits including closer harmonisation with sea and air transport codes reducing inter-modal inefficiencies and costs for importers/exporters.
3. To support the introduction of the new code, the Commission developed the *National Transport Commission (Model Legislation – Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail) Regulations 2007*, in consultation with representatives from Commonwealth, state and territories' dangerous goods authorities, transport industry and other stakeholders.
4. The Australian Transport Council approved the national model legislation in 2007 and a package of maintenance reforms in August 2008. The maintenance package included revised implementation timeframes which require the legislation to be in place before 1 January 2009 and a 12-month transitional period.
5. Adoption of the model legislation requires supporting amendments to subordinate legislation. The *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Dangerous Goods) Regulation 1998* and the *Transport Infrastructure (Dangerous Goods by Rail) Regulation 2002* will be remade. The regulations will proceed directly to the Governor in Council after passage of the Bill, provided that the regulations are certified by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.
6. Cabinet approved the Transport Legislation (Dangerous Goods) Amendment Bill 2008.
7. Cabinet noted that theTransport Legislation (Dangerous Goods) Amendment Bill 2008 will be merged with other transport Bills prior to introduction into the Legislative Assembly.
8. Cabinet noted that supporting amendments to subordinate legislation will proceed directly to Governor in Council after the passage of the Bill.
9. *Attachments*
* [Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 (merged Bill)](attachments/Transport%20and%20Other%20Legislation%20Amendment%20Bill_Merged%20Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](attachments/Transport%20Legislation%20Amendment%20Bill%20EXPNOTES.pdf)