1. Each state and territory legislates to give cooperatives corporate body status distinct from companies. With the exception of Western Australia, each jurisdiction’s legislation contains core consistent provisions which cover fundamental matters such as the cooperative principles, membership, and rules. In Queensland, the governing legislation is the *Cooperatives Act 1997*.
2. True consistency under the scheme has not been achieved due to the requirement for each jurisdiction to amend its legislation based on their parliamentary timetables.
3. The Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs has been working to improve the operation of the scheme and has established a national working party to consider a template scheme for cooperatives legislation. The working party consists of representatives from all states and territories.
4. Through consultation with the Co-operative Council of Australia (the peak representative body), the working party has determined that in addition to legislative consistency in the new Cooperatives National Law, key areas for reform are fundraising, reduced reporting requirements for small cooperatives, and inter-jurisdictional trading.
5. The Cooperatives National Law is underpinned by the Australian Uniform Cooperative Laws Agreement. New South Wales will hold the template legislation and the Agreement allows a participating jurisdiction to adopt the Cooperatives National Law through application of laws legislation or pass alternative consistent legislation.
6. Cabinet approved Queensland entering into the *Australian Uniform Cooperative Laws Agreement* and approving the Cooperatives National Law and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement be released for national public consultation.
7. *Attachments*
* Nil