1. Last year, eight children drowned in Queensland pools. In the last six years, 35 children have drowned in the State’s residential swimming pools. In addition, it is estimated that 50 children a year present to emergency departments for immersion injuries, some of whom suffer brain damage due to lack of oxygen.
2. On 14 December 2008, the Premier announced a review of Queensland’s swimming pool safety laws. An expert Committee (including Kidsafe, the Royal Life Saving Society, the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit and the Local Government Association of Queensland) was established to report to Government.
3. The Committee released a consensus report with 23 findings, all of which will be implemented.
4. Implementation of Stage One of the improvement strategy applied to new pools and commenced on 1 December 2009. Stage Two, which affects existing pools, is now under development.
5. The *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* amends the *Building Act 1975 to* :
   * + provide a framework for the swimming pool inspector licensing system that allows trained, insured and licensed swimming pool safety inspectors to conduct pool safety inspections, issue pool safety certificates if pool safety laws and standards are met and carry out ‘minor upgrade works’ prescribed under the *Building Regulation 2006*;
     + create an independent body, the Pool Safety Council to administer and oversee the pool inspector licensing system;
     + give authority for the creation and maintenance of a State-based swimming pool register; and
     + change the “ban the banners’ part of the *Building Act 1975* to remove or alter some of the provisions invalidating certain building covenants and the like; this has been in response to stakeholder feedback in the context of the global financial crisis.
6. The Bill also amends *The Urban Land Development Act 2007* to:
   * + enable the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) to approve development where the development applied for is inconsistent with either a preliminary approval or the land use plan and will also provide certainty as to the process the ULDA are to undertake to seal plans.
7. Cabinet approved the introduction of the *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010*.
8. *Attachments*

* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/BOLAB10Exp.pdf).
* [Building and Other Legislation Bill 2010](Attachments/BOLAB10.pdf).