1. On 28 July 2008, a review of the civil and criminal justice system in Queensland was launched by the Queensland Government. Former Senior Judge Administrator, the Honourable Martin Moynihan AO QC, was appointed to conduct the review and report on the working of Queensland courts in the civil and criminal jurisdictions with a view to making more effective use of public resources.
2. The report on the review (entitled *Review of the civil and criminal justice system*) and Queensland Government Response were released on 21 July 2009. The Queensland Government Response announced a staged approach to implementation of reforms based on the report. The first two stages of reform are focussed on delivering critical efficiencies and improvements to Queensland’s justice system.
3. The Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2010 (the Bill) will implement the first stage of the reforms in response to the report.
4. The key objectives of the Bill are to:

* increase the summary jurisdiction of the Magistrates Courts for indictable offences;
* increase the general criminal jurisdiction of the District Court;
* streamline committals;
* introduce specific powers for the courts to deal with non-compliance with the provisions for disclosure in criminal cases; and
* increase monetary limits for the civil jurisdiction of the District Court and Magistrates Courts.

1. Some other amendments are included in the Bill which are not based on the report to:

* improve the operation and efficiency of Queensland Courts; and
* make other miscellaneous amendments.

1. The second stage of reforms involves development of a Criminal Justice Procedure Act and uniform criminal procedure rules and forms to consolidate, modernise and streamline criminal justice procedure in Queensland.

1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2010 into the Legislative Assembly and the public release of the discussion paper.
2. *Attachments*

* [Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2010](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Exp%20Notes.pdf)
* [Criminal Justice Procedure in Queensland – Discussion Paper](Attachments/Discussion%20Paper.pdf)