1. The Surat Basin Rail project proposes to construct the 210 kilometre ‘Southern Missing Link’ between Wandoan and Banana to enable the large-scale mining and export of thermal coal from the Surat Basin through the Port of Gladstone.
2. Private sector development of the $1 billion plus railway will deliver significant benefits for Queensland including opening up the estimated four billion tonnes of thermal coal reserves in the Surat Basin for large-scale mining, generation of an estimated $300 million per annum in coal royalties to the State, employment for up to 1 350 workers in railway construction and 44 in railway operation, and growth in local and regional economies.
3. The Bill objective is to protect the State’s interests under the Surat Basin Rail (SBR) Lease and the Surat Basin Rail Operating Agreement*.*
4. This Bill's purpose is to give certainty to the legal framework for the SBR project by exempting the SBR Lease from some laws which apply to all Queensland leases. Without the exemptions, the SBRJV will have additional rights inconsistent with the Operating Agreement and there will be uncertainty about the State’s rights and obligations under the Operating Agreement and Lease.
5. Cabinet approved that the Surat Basin Rail (Long-term Lease) Bill 2011 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*
* [Surat Basin Rail (Long-term Lease) Bill 2011](Attachments/bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Explan%20Notes.pdf)