1. The *Gene Technology Act 2001* (the Queensland Act) is Queensland’s component of the regulatory scheme for gene technology in Australia. The object of the Queensland Act is to protect the health and safety of people, and to protect the environment, by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology, and by managing the risks by regulating certain dealings with genetically modified organisms.
2. State legislation was developed to ensure full regulatory coverage given the constitutional limitations of Commonwealth powers, for example, in relation to State Government agencies and higher education institutions.
3. The second review of the operation of the Queensland Act was undertaken in 2013 and investigated whether the Queensland Act was operating as an efficient and effective component of the regulatory scheme. The review concluded that there are potential efficiencies to be gained from automatically adopting changed gene technology regulation by reference to the Commonwealth legislation, that is, lock-step. However, it was recommended that this should only proceed if there are legislated provisions accompanying the change to lock-step which provide adequate safeguards for Queensland.
4. A Government response to the recommendations of the Queensland Review has been prepared in consultation with relevant departments. Queensland Government departments generally support the findings of the Queensland Review. Departments recognise that there is room to improve Australia’s arrangements to regulate gene technology and that this would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queensland Act.
5. Cabinet noted the Queensland Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2001.*
6. Cabinet endorsed the Government response to the review recommendations.
7. *Attachments*
* [Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2001* (Queensland)](Attachments/Review.PDF)
* [Queensland Government Response to the recommendations of the Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2001* (Queensland)](Attachments/Response.PDF)