1. In 2014/15, 8.4 million tonnes of waste from households, businesses and construction was reported as generated in Queensland. Around 44% of this waste was reported as recycled. This compares to a recycling rate of over 65% in New South Wales (NSW) and over 70% in Victoria. This means that Queenslanders are still disposing of the majority of waste to landfill.
2. Beyond poor waste recovery performance, Queensland continues to be the most littered mainland state. According to the latest National Litter Index figures (published annually by Keep Australia Beautiful), shopping centres, highways and beaches account for the highest proportion of littered items in Queensland and there was a significant increase in the amount of litter found at beaches.
3. As a means to address the low recycling rate and the amount of litter in the environment the Queensland Government committed to investigate a container deposit scheme for Queensland and at the same time agreed to investigate options to restrict the use of plastic shopping bags.
4. Over the last 12 months the Queensland Government has worked closely with key strategic industry and local government partners to deliver a range of waste initiatives and achievements.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of a container deposit scheme for Queensland and the development of a discussion paper.
6. Cabinet agreed to introduce a lightweight plastic bag ban in Queensland and to release the discussion paper.
7. *Attachments*
* [Implementing a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban in Queensland](Attachments/Paper.PDF)