1. The Queensland Government committed to review drought programs and assistance in Queensland for future droughts. In August 2018, an independent expert panel comprised of Ms Ruth Wade and Mr Charles Burke was engaged to look at what could be done in preparation for and during future droughts through a Drought Program Review.
2. The Independent Panel held regional forums and sought written submissions throughout September and October 2018 and provided its recommendations to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries in January 2019.
3. The Queensland Government also engaged Marsden Jacob Associates in 2018 to support the Independent Panel and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the drought programs currently offered by Queensland and provide a framework of evaluation for future programs.
4. The Drought Program Review Report made 20 recommendations. The Report found in‑drought assistance should continue to reflect the severity of an event, and that appropriate resources should be provided to help build resilience and business risk management capabilities in a changing climate. The Report is about future drought events, acknowledging that reform is difficult while in-drought.
5. Of the 20 recommendations, the Drought Program Review Government Response supports 13 and supports six (6) in-principle. One (1) recommendation is not supported.
6. The Queensland Drought Management Framework 2019-2024 is the platform for how drought will be managed now and in the future, highlighting the transition for drought declarations; how drought preparedness, response and recovery will be addressed; and how the recommended individual business risk management plans will support this transition.
7. Cabinet noted the Independent Panel Drought Program Review Report and Marsden Jacob Associates Drought Program Evaluations and approved their public release.
8. Cabinet approved the Drought Program Review Government Response and its public release.
9. Cabinet approved the Queensland Drought Management Framework 2019-2024 and its public release.
10. *Attachments*
    * [Drought Program Review Report](Attachments/Report.PDF)
    * [Drought Program Evaluations](Attachments/Evaluations.PDF)
    * [Drought Program Review Government Response](Attachments/Response.PDF)
    * [Drought Management Framework 2019-2024](Attachments/Framework.PDF)