1. Cabinet considered a proposed strategy to address key issues arising from the current debate around access to agricultural land by the minerals and petroleum resources sector, the catalyst for which has predominantly been the rapid growth of coal and coal seam gas exploration in the Surat Basin.
2. While the State will reap economic rewards from the expansion of resource exploration and development, such growth is also presenting challenges for government and industry alike.
3. A substantial increase in exploration activity across key parts of the State has placed greater emphasis on the importance of building a much clearer understanding of the rights and responsibilities of explorers and rural landholders relating to potential development of the State’s mineral and petroleum resources.
4. The growth in the coal seam gas and mining industries in the Surat Basin has resulted in interest in land that has not previously been associated with resource exploration or development.
5. Cabinet noted existing actions to address land access issues in the Surat Basin.
6. Cabinet approved the following initiatives:
* the Department of Mines and Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly establish a Surat Basin District Office in either Dalby or Roma;
* officers placed in the District Office to ensure compliance with all legislation relevant to mining and gas activities including the *Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Petroleum Act 1923,* and *Environmental Protection Act 2004*;
* a single Code of Conduct be developed by the Land Access Working Group, with specific requirements for each sector;
* in order to minimise disruption to agricultural land, the Government will investigate the establishment of common user pipeline easements; and
* a standard compensation agreement is to be developed as a basis for simplifying compensation negotiations.
1. *Attachments*
* [Map – Queensland Mineral Petroleum and Energy Resources](Attachments/Min%20Pet%20and%20Energy%20Map.pdf)
* [Map – Queensland Current Exploration Permits](Attachments/CurrentExplorationPerm.pdf)