1. The global financial crisis has resulted in a rapid deterioration in world growth. The consequence of slowed economic growth in Queensland is a predicted rise in unemployment in 2009-10 to well over 6%.
2. To increase job creation efforts targeted at the long-term unemployed and young unemployed people – as part of its recent employment election commitment the Government announced the Green Army to provide 3,000 jobs at a cost of $57 million. The implementation of the Green Army will provide additional job opportunities to prevent youth and other job seekers from entering or continuing into long-term unemployment. There are two components to the job creation:
* 2,300 jobs will be created through paid work placements of up to six months on community based projects that conserve and restore the natural environment, green spaces and recreational areas; and
* 700 green traineeship positions.
1. Cabinet endorsed the process whereby the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet; Environment and Resource Management; and Employment and Economic Development together with the relevant local governments will identify key works and locations for Green Army projects ensuring that the green investment results in the enhancement of areas where the state requires priority action.
2. Cabinet endorsed the implementation of the Green Army through the existing mechanisms and structures that support the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative. Green Army work placements and traineeship places will be offered from 1 July 2009.
3. Cabinet noted that the Department of Education and Training (DET) will provide $27 million over three years from 2009-10 which will be incorporated into the Memorandum of Understanding between DET and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.
4. *Attachments*
* Nil.