1. In recent years the resources sector in Queensland has experienced exponential growth. For example, the total area covered by granted exploration permits (EPs) in Queensland is now 21.2 per cent, compared with 2.2 per cent in 2005. A number of State Government policies have recently been introduced to minimise growing concerns about land use conflict (e.g. the Land Access Code and the *Strategic Cropping Land Policy* both primarily targeting the interaction between agriculture and mining activities). There remains a gap in respect to the exploration-urban interface.
2. To address this gap, action is being taken to manage the exploration-urban interface across the state. This will involve the development of a permanent legislative solution that will be introduced to Parliament in late 2011, following a period of public consultation.
3. Cabinet approved that from 16 August 2011 no new exploration applications (except for industrial minerals used in the building industry) will be accepted over South East Queensland and over and around urban areas throughout the State. Local Governments was given until 16 September 2011 to apply to the Minister to opt towns into or out of the restrictions for their respective local government area.
4. Cabinet approved the preparation of legislative amendments to prevent existing exploration tenure holders from undertaking exploration activities in and around urban areas across the State.
5. Cabinet approved a period of public consultation to identify issues and explore options to address exploration-urban interface challenges.
6. *Attachments*
* [Consultation paper on exploration and urban living: striking the balance](Attachments/Att%201%20-%20Mineral%20exploration%20in%20close%20proximity%20to%20urban%20areas.PDF)