1. Fuel prices are an issue the Queensland Government has raised over the last 18 months in response to community concerns that motorist in Brisbane and in Queensland more broadly are paying more fuel than in other states.
2. In April 2016, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) announced Cairns will be the fourth regional location to be studied as part of its petrol monitoring arrangements.
3. The ACCC announcement of the Cairns regional petrol market study followed the Queensland Government’s Fuel Price Summit hosted in March 2016.
4. The Cairns region, in addition to being an important transport hub for Far North Queensland, has an industry structure that is relatively concentrated in agriculture, construction, mining and transport, which are likely to be most affected by fuel prices.
5. Cairns and the surrounding North Queensland region is also one of Australia’s major tourist destinations, with the region’s tourism sector dependant on the transport industry as a means for providing visitors access to a range of natural attractions across the region.
6. The Queensland Government submission outlines the importance of the competitive fuel prices in regional Queensland and the State’s economy more broadly. In particular, the submission highlights the impacts of higher fuel prices on the cost of doing business as well as cost of living impacts in the context of the Cairns economy. The Queensland Government also asked the ACCC to consider a similar study for the Brisbane petrol market.
7. Cabinet approved the provision of a whole-of-Government submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Cairns regional petrol market study.
8. *Attachment*
* Nil.