1. Queensland’s severe weather season traditionally commences on 1 November and concludes on 30 April each year.
2. The Bureau of Meteorology’s long-range forecast for the 2023-24 severe weather season indicates that there is a high chance of unusually warm temperatures for most of Australia until February 2024, with increased bushfire risk due to heat and below median rainfall for much of Australia, including Queensland.
3. El Niño is now established in the Pacific Ocean and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole is now underway– both of these climate drivers increase the likelihood of warmer and drier conditions over spring and summer for parts of Australia, under the influence of these two climate drivers.
4. The Bureau of Meteorology’s Tropical Cyclone Outlook indicates that there will be less tropical cyclones than average this season, as is typical during El Niño.
5. Comprehensive planning occurs across all levels of disaster management to prepare for each severe weather season. Queensland Government agencies are well practiced in responding to cyclone, storms and floods and have undertaken extensive planning to prepare for the 2023-24 severe weather season. Preparations for the upcoming season have included planning, risk assessments, exercising, community engagement and lessons management activities.
6. Cabinet noted the preparedness activities undertaken by the Queensland Government agencies for the 2023-24 severe weather season.
7. *Attachments*:
* Nil.