



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 22 April 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs; Infrastructure Projects

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.09 am): Firstly, Mr Speaker, may I congratulate you on your election to that high and honourable office.

This morning I am honoured to rise to inform the House of my priorities as the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. The people of Queensland have set us a clear task to protect and create jobs. We will do this not just by getting straight on with our record infrastructure program of projects like Airport Link—as the Premier and Treasurer have said, construction is well underway with 1,300 workers out there right now, and that number will swell to 10,000 direct and indirect jobs—but also by encouraging emerging new industries like liquid natural gas. This is a key strategy to deliver on our Toward Q2 target of Queensland being Australia's strongest economy in 2020. The potential of LNG is enormous. A mid sized industry would create an estimated 13,000 jobs and inject close to \$1 billion into Queensland's economy each year. That is why during the election campaign the Premier committed to creating a gas superhighway by acquiring the land corridor between Callide and the Gladstone State Development Area for underground gas pipelines to the proposed LNG plants on Curtis Island and Fisherman's Landing. I look forward to reporting to the House on the progress of this project.

I will get straight on with the job of delivering on our cleaner, greener buildings policy, which is a key strategy to achieve another Toward Q2 target of cutting our carbon footprint by one-third. This policy will not only boost our green construction industry but will also pave the way to more sustainable development across Queensland by requiring new houses and major renovations to meet six star or equivalent energy efficient standards by the end of 2010. New units will be required to meet five star or equivalent energy efficient standards in the same time frame. These initiatives will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 7,710 tonnes each year, resulting in annual savings of around 84,810 tonnes by 2020. This policy builds on our existing sustainable housing initiatives, which with the Deputy Premier I helped to develop in my previous role. I look forward to driving this next step, to creating jobs and to seeing Queensland lead Australia in dealing with climate change.