



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 5 August 2009

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### LNG Industry

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.26 am): Most members in this chamber are aware that Queensland is on the verge of a great new industry that will provide a boost to jobs and to our standard of living. Liquefied natural gas, or LNG as it is known, will capitalise on our vast coal seam gas resources to supply a greener energy to the energy hungry world. If all eight currently announced projects proceed to full production, we could see in excess of \$40 billion of private capital expenditure and over 50 million tonnes of LNG per annum exported from Queensland. Economic studies undertaken by my department indicate that an LNG industry of 28 million tonnes per annum will result in an increase in gross state product of over \$3.1 billion, or over one per cent, the creation of over 18,000 jobs and royalty returns in excess of \$850 million per annum.

The companies involved in LNG projects in Queensland include a very impressive list of energy companies in the world, including British Gas, ConocoPhillips, Shell and Petronas. This is a significant vote of confidence in Queensland by these companies. While the government has put in place a number of initiatives to facilitate the development of the industry, this does not mean that we will automatically approve all LNG projects. The government is also determined that LNG projects meet their environmental and community obligations. To ensure these obligations are met, each project will be comprehensively assessed through the state's EIS process, as is required for all other major projects in Queensland.

During consultations on the extension of the state development area to Curtis Island, community concerns were raised about environmental issues. We listened to the community and declared around 70 per cent of the state development area on Curtis Island as an environmental management precinct, where no development will be permitted. The Coordinator-General has informed me that the master plan for the Western Basin of Gladstone Harbour is expected to be released for public consultation later this month. I urge the community to take this opportunity to have input into the master plan and participate in the development of this exciting new industry.