



Speech by

## Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 24 March 2010

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Far North Queensland, Infrastructure Planning

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.07 am): The Queensland government is planning for growth, not just in South-East Queensland but also in our regions—regions that have been important in our history of decentralisation. Research shows more than 10 per cent of the state's growth goes to Cairns and Townsville, and a further three per cent to the Fraser Coast alone. Our planning reforms have provided a framework for effective regional planning throughout Queensland.

Regional plans such as the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 address land use planning issues while optimising economic opportunities and broadening the region's economic base. Initiatives such as the Mount Peter Master Plan, south of Cairns, will help accommodate up to 50,000 people—much needed preparation when we consider the region's forecast growth of over 100,000 residents to 2030. Statutory planning for the Wide Bay-Burnett, Whitsundays, hinterland and Mackay regions is also underway.

Significant growth in these regions has placed pressure on planning for, and the provision of, essential infrastructure services—infrastructure such as the proposed marine precinct facility for commercial and recreational use at the mouth of the Ross River in the Port of Townsville, which the Coordinator-General recently determined could proceed subject to strict conditions. The Coordinator-General's report details legally enforceable conditions of development to ensure that any potential adverse impacts are adequately managed. The Port of Townsville proposes to reclaim an additional 34 hectares of seabed for the project near the mouth of the Ross River. This \$110 million project provides a location for upstream commercial marine industries affected by construction of the Townsville eastern port access road and for the consolidation of other marine industries around the Townsville port.

It is expected that the project will preserve 500 existing jobs in the marine industries while directly employing an additional 150 people. The provision of regional plans and the comprehensive assessment of regional projects in addition to the Growth Management Summit being held on 30 and 31 March highlights the Bligh government's ongoing commitment to a prosperous and well-planned Queensland.