



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 18 August 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North West Regional Plan

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.04 am): Last week I had the pleasure of launching the North West Regional Plan in Mount Isa—a statutory plan to guide social and economic growth in the north-west over the next 20 years. With local leadership from the member for Mount Isa and the region's five mayors we have developed a blueprint which strikes the right balance between the north-west's social, economic and environmental needs. This will ensure development is appropriate to the region. It will ensure a sustainable economy. It will provide well planned and coordinated infrastructure and services.

This is the most recent regional plan and is evidence that Queensland is leading the way in managing growth. In partnership with the Gillard government we are moving this great state forward. As already mentioned by the Premier, in March the Bligh government hosted the Queensland Growth Management Summit, the first of its kind in Australia. A key strategy to managing Queensland's population is to promote growth in our regions. To this end, the Bligh government announced on 1 June 2010 an additional \$4,000 for first home buyers in regional areas. We have also made plans to support this population growth with strong local economies and jobs with a Queensland regionalisation strategy.

Julia Gillard also understands the importance of Queensland's regions and has committed heavily to those areas. In contrast, Tony Abbott only has eyes for Sydney and would rob our regions of the investment they deserve. Let me list some of the commitments the Gillard government has already made to Queensland's regions. They include: \$200 million to flood proof Townsville's roads, while Abbott would watch the city sink in the wet season; \$95 million for the Calliope Crossroads near Gladstone, and nothing from Abbott; \$54 million for the Blacksoil interchange near Ipswich, and nothing from Abbott; \$50 million to the Gladstone Port Access Road, and nothing from Abbott; \$48 million to the Townsville Convention and Entertainment Centre, \$18 million more than Abbott; \$40 million for the Bruce and Capricorn Highway intersection, and nothing from Abbott; and \$14.4 million to the Cairns Base Hospital, \$7 million to the Mackay GP superclinic and \$5 million to the Emerald GP superclinic, all of which will receive nothing under Abbott.

This list could go on and on embarrassing that wannabe Prime Minister every step of the way. We know Tony Abbott will cut vital funding to our regions and that is why Tony Abbott is a risk the Queensland economy can just not afford.