



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 5 October 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

LNG Industry; Gladstone Foundation

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.25 am): One of the key planks of the Bligh government's jobs strategy is the attraction and development of new industries. One of these new lead industries is the liquefied natural gas industry, representing an enormous jobs opportunity for Queensland. Queensland's vast coal seam gas reserves and the industry's potential have attracted phenomenal overseas interest, with major international companies fighting to secure interests in coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas projects. The Bligh government is committed to the communities that will underpin this development.

As part of this commitment, the government joined with the Gladstone Regional Council in January 2009 to develop a strategic social study for Gladstone. I would like to thank former mayor George Creed, who tendered his resignation last week on medical grounds, for his involvement and contribution to the development of this study—and for 30 years of service to local government.

Mrs Cunningham: A great bloke.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Gladstone. That study, the Gladstone Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan, was completed some weeks ago and since then the government has been considering its response. I can now announce the release of the Draft Voluntary Industry Contributions Framework as an outcome of this study. The primary purpose of this draft document is to propose, in partnership with the Gladstone Regional Council, the Gladstone community and industry, to establish a perpetual trust to be known as the Gladstone Foundation.

It is proposed that the Gladstone Foundation will operate for the long term as a mechanism for managing and allocating industry contributions for the community. It will regularly consider the voluntary industry framework for investment in the Draft Voluntary Industry Contributions Framework on criteria based on viability, demonstrated need and compatibility with industry requirements.

The foundation will be governed by a board including community, industry and government representatives, and contributions will be managed by the Queensland Public Trustee. The foundation offers industry and the community of Gladstone the very best return on contributions and investment in social infrastructure. The establishment of the foundation will be supported by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and we will now consult stakeholders in relation to the detail of the foundation's creation, board and membership.

The secondary purpose of this framework is to give clear direction to major project proponents planning to establish large scale development in the region, to ensure these companies invest funds in social infrastructure that benefits the community. The Draft Voluntary Industry Contributions Framework provides the private sector with a broad range of social infrastructure projects for possible investment—projects which have been identified by the local community.

The Bligh government is committed to building tomorrow's Queensland and to strengthening our regions. This plan puts the future of Gladstone in the hands of local people so that investment from industry reflects their needs.