



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe


MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 17 February 2011

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Galilee Basin, Coalmining Projects

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 pm): Plainly the first priority of this government is to rebuild Queensland in the wake of recent natural disasters. In my portfolio I am pressing forward with plans to unlock the full economic potential of our state. This is a crucial task to getting Queensland back on its feet.

So I am pleased to announce that the draft terms of reference for Adani Mining's Carmichael coalmine and rail project have been released for public comment. This project is the fifth coalmining project proposed for the Galilee Basin, which is the last undeveloped coal resource in Queensland and is likely to become the state's largest coal-producing region.

Projects previously announced include Kevin's Corner and Alpha Coal by Hancock Prospecting, South Galilee Coal by AMCI and Alpha Coal Pty Ltd, and Galilee Coal by Waratah Coal Pty Ltd. Together, these projects and the associated rail and port infrastructure facilities involve capital expenditure of \$33 billion. This is great news for the economy and jobs creation, with the potential for 20,000 new jobs during construction and approximately 10,000 operational jobs. This is a massive part of the Coordinator-General's program of projects under assessment, now totalling \$57.8 billion—38,100 estimated construction jobs and 18,600 ongoing jobs, mainly in regional Queensland.

The Bligh government will also help to prepare the community for this growth. We will develop a Galilee Basin economic and social impact study which will be used by state government agencies, local councils and other organisations to help the region prepare and manage the impact of these projects. We are also working on plans for common user water and power infrastructure to deliver these essential services to the Galilee Basin. The development of the Galilee Basin as a major centre for coalmining, processing and exporting is important to the future economic prosperity of Queensland, and it puts us firmly back on the track to economic recovery.