



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 31 May 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Abbot Point, Infrastructure

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): Labor made a complete mess of building infrastructure in Queensland and the lack of any real progress at Abbot Point is an example of that failure. The LNP government has taken decisive action to end uncertainty over the proposed expansion of the Abbot Point coal port. It was becoming abundantly clear that industry was not supportive of the multicargo facility and the continued development of the T4 to T9 terminals in the form put forward by the previous Labor government. As a government we have a responsibility to ensure that any plans for the port at Abbot Point are deliverable and take into consideration the short- and long-term needs of industry. Our government, therefore, believes that it can no longer support the continued development of the multicargo facility and T4 to T9 proposals. Instead, our government will involve the industry in developing plans and proposals to build the capacity of Abbot Point in a more measured way and intends to do so in a manner that provides greater development certainty and better process control going forward.

The government appreciates that many companies will have made varying levels of commitment to North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation and that those commitments will need to be considered in detail by all parties in planning a better way forward. The government is confident, however, that a measured, incremental, staged approach to development at Abbot Point will provide a better growth solution to Bowen and Galilee basin miners and see more coal exported sooner for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The port of Abbot Point is a very important strategic asset for the state and its successful future expansion will play a key role in Queensland's economic development.

The proposals outlined by the failed Bligh Labor government were simply unrealistic and not deliverable. They were never going to become a reality. Our approach to expansion of infrastructure at Abbot Point is more practical, more realistic, more sensible and more deliverable. We will be working hard to obtain the remaining approvals so that we can proceed quickly with the T0, T2 and T3 terminals and will discuss with industry what additional capacity is needed at Abbot Point beyond that. These three new terminals will provide something like 160 million tonnes of export capacity—still a huge increase on Queensland's current export capacity which is around 200 million tonnes. A practical and commonsense approach will be one of the hallmarks of this government as we work with industry to build the necessary infrastructure to ensure Queensland's economic future in a responsible, measured way.