



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Commission of Audit

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): Last week and again this morning we heard about the true legacy of the previous Labor government's failures revealed for all to see in the report of the Commission of Audit. While the report last week revealed the numerous financial failings of Labor that will require severe cutbacks in government spending, these cutbacks will only be one side of this government's response. Our government will redouble our efforts to boost the income of the state by growing the four economic pillars which underpin our state's economy. The department of state development will lead that effort to reverse the decline in state income at the same time as across government we move to put an end to the waste and the excessive spending of our predecessors.

Unlike the Labor government that got Queensland into this financial mess, we understand that we need to earn money to pay for the services that Queenslanders need rather than just continuing to borrow it in ever-increasing amounts. We on this side of the House understand that to spend money we need to earn it first. The best way to increase what our state earns is to do more of what earns us money and to do it better. In dealing with Labor's terrible legacy, we will focus on growing the business of Queensland. We will focus on growing and strengthening the four pillars of our economy just as we promised the people of Queensland we would.

In the resources industry, in agriculture, in tourism and in construction we will remove the constraints built up over the decades of Labor rule and we will encourage investment and encourage growth. We will maximise the comparative advantage that our industries have in the world markets rather than continuing to strangle our industries with an ever-growing burden of regulation and restriction. We will protect our precious environment and we will protect our economic future at the same time. We will ensure that our legislative processes and our regulation are outcome focused and that they are aimed at achieving the balanced business environment Queensland needs to attract investment to our state. Already my department and the office of the Coordinator-General have begun that work. We have overhauled the approvals process for major projects and we freed up the logjam of application that was Labor's legacy. We have rejected unrealistic and undeliverable projects like the overoptimistic Abbot Point port expansion and the six railway proposals across the Galilee Basin that were associated with it. We rejected them because they were undeliverable and unrealistic.

We will now focus instead on deliverable projects that are responsible and that represent balanced, incremental growth for our export industries that we need to grow and prosper. Similarly, we are reforming the planning process to encourage investment in our tourism, housing and construction industries. We are reforming the state planning legislation and the state planning policies to focus on growing the four pillars of our economy. We are advancing statutory regional planning and reviewing a range of land and water use issues to give our agricultural industries the confidence that they need to invest and to grow. My department will be focusing on creating a business environment in Queensland where existing businesses can grow and invest and where new businesses can invest with confidence. We will seek to identify the

constraints on that investment and work with other departments and other ministers to ensure that those constraints are removed so that our economy can grow. It is that growth and the new investment that it brings to Queensland's economy that will be the long-term solution to the horrific financial mess that was Labor's legacy to Queensland—a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.