



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Wednesday, 20 June 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

LNG Industry

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.16 pm): The importance of the resources sector to Queensland's future prosperity cannot be overstated. Our state is endowed with a wealth of natural resources that will provide benefits to our communities for generations to come. Today I want to give but one example of how the natural wealth and its development provides significant benefits to communities across the state.

Bechtel is the international engineering and construction giant that has the construction contracts for three of the LNG facilities being built on Curtis Island in Gladstone. Bechtel has a workforce of almost 6,000 people employed on these projects and it has just released the jobs data on that workforce. The good news is that 88 per cent of those employees—around 5,200 people—working on the multibillion-dollar Gladstone LNG projects are Queenslanders. Almost 3,000 of them are local people—that is, 3,000 of them reside within a 60-kilometre radius of the city of Gladstone. Of the 2,600 who reside outside that radius, 80 per cent of them are from other areas of Queensland—areas as diverse as Wynnum Manly and Toowoomba, Maryborough and Mackay, Noosa and Surfers Paradise, Robina, Redland Bay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Gympie, Monto, Gayndah, North Lakes and Coomera. In fact, Queenslanders from 651 country towns and city suburbs throughout the state are employed on these major construction projects.

This underscores the importance of these resource projects to driving up the state's growth and driving down the unemployment levels, and it shows that the wealth from these developments spreads to all regions across the state and to all Queensland communities. Only eight per cent of this workforce in Gladstone is drawn from other areas of Australia outside Queensland, and four per cent are Bechtel specialists who move from project to project around the world. I might add that this data does not include the thousands of jobs involved in the pipeline construction and the well establishment to supply the LNG plants that Bechtel is building.

Since forming government we have worked with all of the LNG proponents in Gladstone to ensure that these major developments proceed as smoothly as possible, clearing some regulatory hurdles that have been placed in their way and holding them back. This government is fully supportive of the CSG and LNG industries and we will facilitate their development, but we will do so with the constant proviso that they must work with communities and landholders, they must act cooperatively and they must use world's best industrial and environmental practice and ensure that the benefit from all of their developments flows to all Queenslanders. We can see that happening with Bechtel in Gladstone and, as other projects move to construction and to operation, we expect to continue to see the benefits flow through to Queensland and to Queenslanders. We want to extract the maximum possible benefit for our economy from a balanced, responsible development of our resources industry. This data from Bechtel shows that it can be done.