



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 10 July 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Newman Government, Achievements

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has begun laying the foundations for Queensland's future economic growth with the actions that we have taken in the first 100 days of government. Key to what we have done is to get the big projects that will get Queensland back on track moving again. In just a matter of three months the Coordinator-General has made more decisions than the previous government could reach in an entire year.

The \$6 billion Alpha Coal Project has been approved. The \$1.5 billion South of Embley Project has also been given the green light. A host of other projects have been progressed through the approvals process rather than sitting in the logjam that the Labor government presided over. These are the decisions that will set the state on a course for economic growth with the potential for tens of thousands of jobs and a wealth of taxes, royalties and export earnings for the state and for the nation.

At the same time, we have moved to resolve the difficult issues that Labor found itself unable to confront. A new GasFields Commission is about to hold its first meeting and get on with the job of bridging the divisions between regional communities, agricultural landowners and the resource companies. The Bruce Highway Crisis Management Group has met and is already developing its mission to put the upgrading of this vital transport route top of the agenda in Canberra. Likewise, the new Infrastructure Queensland is underway and will have important input into future development plans for the state.

We have established the framework for our Royalties for the Regions program which will see hundreds of millions of dollars returned to the parts of the state where the growth of the resources sector is placing significant pressures. I have written to every council in those areas inviting them to make application for projects which are important to them.

Let me stress to the House how important this work is. Queensland was stagnating under the previous Labor government. Queensland stagnated for too many years. Key decisions were being dodged and outlandish decisions were being taken. So, in many cases, our first tasks were to unwind the idiocy of the Labor years: the undeliverable, unrealistic expansion of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal taken off the agenda; the unbelievable possibility of six railway lines across the Galilee Basin taken off the agenda and reduced to a sensible plan for two; the mess that the Mary Valley was after Labor's ill-conceived Traveston Dam proposal now in the process of being resolved by this LNP government. We have moved on all of those by providing some common-sense decision making, by making common-sense, reasonable decisions.

Further, the measures needed to establish statutory regional plans for Central Queensland and the Darling Downs are underway and moving ahead quickly. A full review of the state's planning policies, processes and approvals regime is underway as a precursor for a full revamp of our state planning process by the year's end. We will take Queensland from the restrictive and negative policies of Labor, led by their climate change office and the department of environment and natural resources—the much despised

DERM that every Queenslanders came to hate. After 100 days DERM is dead. Instead, Queenslanders can expect a positive, proactive, can-do attitude and approach to grow our economy, to build a future for Queensland and to build a future for generations of Queenslanders. We are working with business, we are working with industry and we are working with other levels of government to lay the groundwork for strong future growth and to deliver on our commitments to the people of Queensland.