



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Planning Policies

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.38 am): Proper planning is vital for Queensland's future. Planning policies and regulations are key determinants of future growth, future development and future economic prosperity, as well as protecting our environment for future generations. After effectively two decades of Labor control of Queensland, our state is hamstrung by layer upon layer of absurd rules and regulations put in place by the office of climate change and the former department of environment and resource management—the dreaded DERM.

For the sake of Queensland's future, Queensland's planning must change and it is already changing. Fixing the planning system will be one of this government's critical actions in getting the state back on track and it will be a key focus of my department. This government is going to ensure that the state planning policies reflect our determination to grow the four pillars that support our economy and build a bright future for our state.

We will replace Labor's negative and restrictive planning regime with balanced planning policies that are aimed at enabling and deliberately encouraging growth and protecting the environment at the same time. To that end my department is currently working on a temporary state planning regulatory provision that will provide for economic development based on the LNP's four-pillars policy. This will be the first positive, enabling policy that Queensland has had in recent memory, ensuring that the state's need to grow the four pillars of our economy is proactively considered whenever a planning decision is made. The regulatory provision will be a statutory instrument and therefore, like all other existing statutory instruments, must be considered in all planning and development decision making. Our plan is to have this new instrument in place by the end of the month.

I have also set an end-of-the-month deadline for revision of the state's coastal management plan. This plan was rushed through in the dying days of the last government with little thought, no consultation and no understanding of the consequences that it would have. Our revision is aimed at alleviating some of the unintended consequences of that plan without lessening in any way the protection that we want it to provide for the coastal marine environment.

These are two temporary measures that are being taken to facilitate development that for so long has been held up, put off or driven away by Labor's over-the-top red tape and unaccountable green tape. They will be closely followed by a bill to amend the Sustainable Planning Act. My assistant minister, the member for Mansfield, has almost completed an extensive consultation effort aimed at ensuring that a bill to amend the Sustainable Planning Act can be introduced into this parliament and passed before the end of this year. Beyond that I am investigating the formulation of a single state planning policy to determine if all the current state planning policies—and there is a mishmash of 14 different state planning policies—can be consolidated into a single sensible document that can provide an umbrella of regulation to the state's planning regime.

We intend to produce planning policies and approvals processes that match this government's can-do approach and can facilitate growth, encourage development, assist investment and protect the great environment of our state. We are focused on planning a better future for generations of Queenslanders.