



Speech by

**Hon. Jeff Seeneey**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Tuesday, 31 July 2012

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Major Projects; Regional Planning**

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.53 am): In four short months this government has worked hard and methodically to fix the foundations of our economy and lay the groundwork for future growth. Our government has moved quickly to restore the Coordinator-General's power and authority to properly coordinate and facilitate major projects. Within the next month—within a third of the year—the Coordinator-General will have made more formal major decisions, provided more approvals for major projects, than the previous Labor government did in an entire year. As of today, 43 key decisions have been made by the Coordinator-General, all aimed at getting the state back on track—projects like the Great Keppel Island Resort, a \$600 million proposal for one of the biggest tourist developments in Australia; approvals like the \$200 million Australia Pacific LNG Social Impact Management Plan, which will deliver social and community benefits for Gladstone, the Western Downs and Maranoa. They follow the \$6.4 billion Alpha Coal Project and \$1.5 billion extension to the South of Embley bauxite mine. They are just some of the decisions our government has overseen to set the state on a course to grow our economy, develop the four pillars of our economy and create jobs and greater wealth.

Critically important to the future is planning: setting firm foundations for those four pillars of mining, agriculture, tourism and construction about which we made commitments to the people of Queensland and about which we want the investment community to make decisions. We are moving quickly on this front too in order to repair the policy failures of our immediate predecessors. In the last week I have convened and chaired the first meetings of regional planning groups for the Darling Downs and Central Queensland as we promised the people we would do—firstly in Dalby and then in Emerald. We are planning next week to add a third region, that of Cape York, to be covered by a new statutory regional plan. These plans are about the future. They are about the state government getting our responsibilities right. They are about planning how the state government provides and delivers services and infrastructure to these diverse regions which contribute hugely to Queensland's economy. They will guide and prioritise infrastructure rollout, manage development and manage impacts on the environment. The plans will address the land use conflicts. They will identify, map and protect valuable agricultural land and they will define areas for resource development.

No doubt some of those outcomes will be contentious, but in the interests of the state and all Queenslanders we must plan properly to provide for ongoing economic growth. These plans will be developed in consultation and collaboration with local governments and with local communities generally. The regional planning committees bring together the leaders of local councils, local members of parliament, leaders of industry, business, community and economic development groups. They will provide an avenue for local people to have their say on how their communities move into the future and how we as a government should deliver the services for which we have responsibility. They will provide valuable input to my department as it prepares these important planning documents for the future of these regions. The statutory regional plans will be created as a partnership, reflecting the needs and aspirations of local people while allowing for economic growth of the state as a whole. They will be an important part of fixing the foundation of Queensland's future and getting Queensland back on track.