



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Abbot Point Coal Terminal

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.37 am): The Newman government made its position very clear before the election that we would grow the Queensland economy. Since the election we have been getting on with the job of building Queensland's economy and getting Queensland back on track. We have been getting on with the job of implementing our four-pillar plan to rebuild the state.

This government is focused on providing the right incentives for business and industry to be able to make the investment decisions that will benefit all Queenslanders in an environment that will always be protected. That is why as Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning I have insisted on a more sensible approach to the proposed Abbot Point coal-loading expansion and the two rail corridors to service the new mines in the Galilee and Bowen basins.

Today I want to inform the House of the latest development in our effort to ensure that the vital coal port of Abbot Point can grow and expand in a sensible and balanced incremental way. In partnership with the North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, I have appointed a facilitator to test coal companies' appetite to invest in new coal-loading facilities at Abbot Point and to establish the basis on which that investment would be attractive to industry. I have appointed Mr Barry Golding—a man with more than 45 years experience in the mining industry and infrastructure development—to meet with coal companies to discuss their immediate and longer term capacity requirements and find solutions that business will embrace.

In coming weeks, and in conjunction with government officers and the North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, Mr Golding will meet with coal companies to discuss their upcoming plans and their needs for future port capacity. The focus now will shift to the incremental expansion of port capacity to Abbot Point to meet future demand and to decide how that incremental expansion can be planned and, more importantly, how it can be funded in a sensible, economical way.

The government has a preference for multiuser terminals as a way to meet short- to medium-term development for as many players as possible. Discussions will be held with companies identified with the previous multicargo facility proposal and other interested parties regarding the scale and staging of additional infrastructure development at Abbot Point. Discussions will also be held on preferred development and commercial models to bring that expansion forward and to make the facilities a reality. We want to see port capacity built up incrementally in a scaled way to meet real, actual demand from miners. We believe there are some new opportunities to site stockpiles and other port related infrastructure beside the existing T1 and the planned T0 to T3 terminals, and Mr Golding will be actively discussing these proposals with industry.

The purpose of the Abbot Point State Development Area is to reinforce the future development of regions between Mount Isa, Townsville and Bowen as a triangle of industrial development and mineral processing. The scaled back developments at Abbot Point are consistent with the government's recently

announced preferences for Galilee Basin rail infrastructure development, with proponents to now align their rail plans in one or both of two common rail corridors. Finding a workable solution regarding the Abbot Point coal-loading expansion is not only vital for existing coalminers but also for the new Galilee Basin proponents and for the future of Queensland's economy. It is an important part of getting on with the job of getting Queensland back on track.