



Speech by

**Hon. Jeff Seeney**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Great Barrier Reef

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.27 pm): Our government has committed to working with the federal government to undertake a strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef coastal region as a basis for a streamlined bilateral approvals process. Part of the strategic assessment is the development of a ports strategy. Today, I table a draft Great Barrier Reef ports strategy that will be available for public consultation and public comment from tomorrow. The strategy presents the vision and principles that will guide our government's approach to future port development and our planning in the Great Barrier Reef coastal region for the next decade.

*Tabled paper:* Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning: Great Barrier Reef Ports Strategy 2012-2022 for public consultation, October 2012 [[1451](#)].

Port development is essential for the growth of Queensland's economy, but so too is the protection and health of our greatest environmental asset, the Great Barrier Reef. Through this strategy the government will balance environmental protection with the need to facilitate economic prosperity. Put simply, our ports must expand if we are to prosper and grow as a state. We are part of a global economy and our ports connect us to the world.

The ports adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are among the world's busiest and most productive, and their effective operation underpins the growth of Queensland's four-pillar economy. However, at the same time the Great Barrier Reef remains the most protected and one of the best managed marine areas in the world. This government will ensure that continues to be the case. This strategy is part of our plan to develop the ports we need and protect the Great Barrier Reef at the same time. I point out that this government has already scaled back the unrealistic expansion proposals of the previous government for Abbot Point, taking the proposed multicargo facility and the proposed coal terminals 4 to 9 completely off the table.

Today I can announce that, under the strategy that I have just tabled, we will restrict significant port developments within and adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to within existing port limits for the next 10 years. We will facilitate the expansion within those port precincts. We will facilitate the development of terminals 0, 2 and 3 at Abbot Point. New coal terminals are mooted at Dudgeon Point in the port of Hay Point. Within the Gladstone precinct, expansion is an ongoing constant for both existing exports and imports and the future of the LNG industry. Balaclava Island, Port Alma and Sea Hill all provide scope to serve ongoing resource development.

Fewer bigger port areas will mean less disruption to our environment and better protection for areas outside these existing port facilities. Queensland has well-established processes to measure and manage environmental impacts of port development and we will ensure that shipping through the Great Barrier Reef region is also highly regulated. Queenslanders can be assured that this government will successfully manage the balance between economic development and environmental protection.