Speech By

# Hon. Jeff Seeney

## MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2014

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Galilee Basin State Development Area

**Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): The Galilee Basin will be the economic engine room that will generate the funds to pay for the schools and hospitals that Queenslanders will need now and into the future. The potential economic contribution of just one of those mines and associated rail infrastructure is enormous. For example, the Carmichael mine is estimated to return $22 billion in taxes and royalties to the Queensland government and an almost $5 billion contribution to the gross state product. The development of the proposed mines such as Alpha, Kevin's Corner and the Carmichael mine have the potential to deliver up to 28,000 new jobs for Queenslanders, 15,000 construction jobs and over 13,000 operational jobs. Since coming to government, we have moved decisively to progress major Galilee Basin resource projects and to put into place the mechanisms to ensure that serious proponents can proceed with certainty and, equally and just as importantly, landholders are given the certainty that they need to plan for their futures.

After two years of consultation by Queensland's independent Coordinator-General, we declared the Galilee Basin State Development Area consisting of one east-west corridor and one north-south corridor to support the construction of rail lines from the major mines to the port of Abbot Point. In coming weeks, we are taking the next steps to ensure that the jobs and the economic benefits flow from the Galilee to all Queenslanders, with particular regard to the Galilee mine and the railway proposed by the Adani company. The Coordinator-General has informed me that he will be communicating directly with the 16 private landholders whose properties will be affected by the potential construction of this rail infrastructure in regard to the critical issue of securing the land identified as being required for the project to succeed.

Over the past 2½ years we have pursued strategies to minimise the number of landholders affected. Importantly, landholders and the community can be assured that the minimum amount of land needed will be involved with a corridor generally only 60 to 100 metres wide. These 16 private landholders will be updated by the Coordinator-General on the process ahead which involves negotiations between Adani and the landowners to reach a marketplace based commercial agreement between the parties before the land will be formally acquired by the Coordinator-General based on the terms of those agreements and then leased back to Adani to operate the railway. It is important that the process of land acquisition is made clear to give both the proponent and the landowners more certainty of the process ahead and to allow more time for them to finalise their agreements through commercial negotiations before the Coordinator-General begins the formal process.

Over the past 2½ years we have proceeded methodically to bring about certainty to landholders and proponents in the Galilee Basin and to minimise the impacts on landholders and on the community in that part of Queensland. The development of this great resource will bring certainty to future generations of Queenslanders—certainty that they will have access to jobs and business opportunities and certainty that we will be able to fund the schools and hospitals and deliver the services that they will need in the future.