




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

InfrastructureQ

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.14 pm): Today our government achieved a key milestone in our plan to deliver better infrastructure with the release of the InfrastructureQ directions statement at an IAQ breakfast this morning. This statement is the first step in defining a new approach to plan, prioritise and deliver infrastructure in the future.

Queensland is at an exciting point in time, where our strong plan for a brighter future will deliver major game-changing infrastructure across our state. Today's directions statement is the first step towards the release of a final InfrastructureQ state infrastructure plan, which will be released in early 2015 in time for the people of Queensland to consider our plans when we seek the mandate for the Strong Choices program. InfrastructureQ will be a cohesive strategy for our government to continue to deliver better infrastructure across the state in key sectors such as transport and education. This is especially important given the fiscal repair task that we are facing and the possibility that Queenslanders will support the unlocking of \$8.6 billion through asset transactions identified in the *Strongest and smartest choice—Queensland's plan for security finances and a strong economy*. As an ongoing part of that fiscal repair challenge, the Treasurer has engaged with Queenslanders through the Strong Choices campaign to determine how best to tackle the accumulated \$80 billion worth of debt and our \$4 billion worth of annual interest burden. We are faced with a choice of increasing taxes, reducing services or selling or leasing assets.

We chose to invest in the future of Queensland through strong choices. The aim is to reduce debt and reinvest about \$8.6 billion in new economy-building infrastructure through the Strong Choices investment program. The \$8.6 billion figure is a conservative estimate by the Treasurer and I am hopeful that, if we can achieve more, then we will have more money to invest in the infrastructure that Queensland badly needs. InfrastructureQ will form part of our government's efforts to clearly and responsibly identify a genuine pipeline of future projects to ensure that that \$8.6 billion, or whatever the figure turns out to be, is invested in sustained growth-producing infrastructure for the state's economy, particularly in regional Queensland.

Before deciding whether to invest in infrastructure, our government will first consider, of course, making better use of existing infrastructure, improving the existing infrastructure, or delivering new infrastructure in an incremental way. The final InfrastructureQ plan will be guided by six common-sense principles, including the proper integration of planned infrastructure, prioritising infrastructure that will promote economic growth and boost productivity and partnering with the private sector in investigating smart financing and funding solutions.

Just to pick up on one of those principles, our government acknowledges far more than Labor ever did the significant role and potential of the private sector to partner with the state government to

deliver and operate key infrastructure. We understand that the private sector has the capacity and the experience and is the engine room of economic growth. InfrastructureQ highlights our government's commitment to further involve and partner with the private sector to deliver infrastructure in a modern and efficient way.

We expect that, when released, InfrastructureQ will become an important reference document for industry and will be updated annually to ensure relevance and reliability. Over the next six months we will continue to draw on the expertise and knowledge of the community and industry to build on the progress that this government has already made to ensure that Queensland continues to be a great state with great opportunity. Through this partnership, we will build a healthy economy and a strong jobs market. We have a strong plan to invest in infrastructure. Our government promised to deliver better infrastructure and planning. That is exactly what InfrastructureQ will do.