



Speech By  
**Hon. Jeff Seeneey**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 November 2014

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Galilee Basin

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.56 am): The G20 Leaders Summit was a great success on a number of fronts for our state and for Queenslanders. Not only did the G20 shine the spotlight on Brisbane and Queensland as a great place to visit, it also highlighted our state as a great place to do business. One of the highlights was an opportunity for me to meet the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and to strengthen business ties with the country that, alongside China, will continue to grow as a critically important market for what Queensland has to offer.

A stronger relationship with India will grow Queensland jobs and grow the Queensland economy. I led a trade mission to India last year and visited Minister Modi, as he was then, in Gujarat. I am pleased that the Premier, who has been to India before on a trade mission, will also take a trade mission back to Gujarat early next year. India will be a key market for the Galilee Basin development. The next wave of Queensland resource sector jobs will be in the Galilee Basin. Our government is determined to put in place strategies to make sure that these 28,000 jobs are created to supply energy to India and to China.

Since we came to government we have tackled a raft of challenges left to us by the previous government that have threatened to stifle development of the Galilee Basin, to exacerbate impacts on rural landholders and to damage the environment. First we began the significant task of unwinding Labor's mess by reducing the planned dredging program from 38 million tonnes to just three million tonnes. Next we cleaned up the spaghetti of six proposed rail lines crisscrossing the basin to provide greater certainty to proponents and to significantly minimise the impact on rural landholders. In the past few months we have finalised a solution to the emotive issue of port development at Abbot Point. Our Abbot Point Port and Wetlands Strategy will beneficially re-use dredge material on land rather than dumping it at sea and we will restore the environmental values of the nearby wetlands.

The next piece in the challenge to unlock the Galilee Basin is infrastructure. Our government's role in meeting the challenge will be to make short-term strategic investments to help build the rail line, ports and other infrastructure that will be needed to get the Galilee coal to market. We do not propose to invest any more money than we need to or to hold a stake in this infrastructure for any longer than we have to. Our intention is to facilitate the development. We are prepared to be a short-term minority investor in projects where proponents can demonstrate that they have the financial capacity to contribute the majority of the money required to build common user rail, port or airport infrastructure.

This is in stark contrast to the past when state governments built all the infrastructure and maintained ownership of the assets in the longer term. It is also in stark contrast to the previous Labor government's policy of handing out big grants to attract companies to invest in Queensland. Our assistance will not be grant funding. Our short-term minority investment will mean tens of thousands

of Queensland families will benefit from the jobs and opportunities that the resources sector offers, but we will recover the money. We will recover any money we invest when the projects mature and our interests are able to be on sold. We have begun to negotiate with the Indian company Adani to make a potential contribution to the rail line that will link the Galilee Basin to the port of Abbot Point. That project could deliver almost 6,500 jobs and inject \$3 billion into the Queensland economy. Last week letters were sent offering similar opportunities to all Galilee proponents and we will work with all proponents to ensure that we deliver efficient infrastructure for the Galilee Basin.

Our government is determined to make intelligent investment decisions that will deliver results and real returns for Queensland taxpayers. Just as our state continues to move towards more renewable energy sources, we also understand that coal will form an important part of the world's energy equation for many decades to come. It makes economic and environmental sense to ensure that Queensland's high-quality coal reserves are used to provide much needed electricity to the 400 million Indians who currently suffer for the want of light and power. At the same time, we will be underwriting the future of this generation of Queenslanders and future generations of Queenslanders to come.