




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Integrated Resort Developments, Registration of Interest

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.07 pm): The Queensland government's drive to revitalise the state's tourism sector and boost economic growth continues. The process to develop up to three internationally competitive integrated resort developments has passed an important milestone. At the close of registration of interest on Friday we received 19 registrations from parties eager to develop world-class tourism drawcards with the associated gaming licences. Twelve of those proponents have registered an interest in developing an integrated resort on the historic Queen's Wharf Brisbane site. This development, once delivered, will mark a coming of age for Brisbane and revitalise an important part of the Brisbane CBD. Seven other proponents have expressed interest in developing integrated resorts in regional Queensland.

After years of Labor failure, the Newman government promised to grow the tourism and construction pillars of our economy and through these exciting opportunities we are delivering on that commitment. The state government is heartened by the response from both national and international corporate major players, but there is a comprehensive process to complete before we have a development. My department recently held a briefing for potential bidders which brought together construction groups, financiers, legal advisers and gaming operators to confirm firsthand the government's vision for iconic integrated resort developments that will be internationally competitive. We explained that our government is looking for projects that will deliver real benefits in terms of boosted construction and hospitality jobs, as well as benefits right across the communities in which they are based.

The next stage of the process is the lodgement of expressions of interest, which will need to be accompanied by a \$100,000 non-refundable fee. The expressions of interest close on 31 March 2014. The government is making it plain to proponents that we are looking for landmark developments that can be internationally competitive and that will bring clear economic and community benefits to the state. The process to achieve that is well on track.