




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South American Trade Mission

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.31 pm): Since coming to government we have made it very clear that Queensland is open for business and we are focused on growing the economy and creating jobs for Queenslanders. We have made it very clear that we support the resources sector as one of the four pillars of our economy and the critical role that it plays in driving the state economy and creating tens of thousands of jobs for Queenslanders.

Our vision to grow the state's mining sector was the catalyst for a recent trade mission to South America, led by me and the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps, to identify new export business opportunities and to enhance existing relationships with other mining states. Our trade mission visited both Chile and Brazil and included a business delegation of a number of Queensland's leading mining services and mining technology providers as well as representatives from the University of Queensland who have collaborative research agreements with universities in South America.

One of the mission's highlights was a visit to Expomin 2014 in Chile. This event is one of the world's premier mining expositions, with some 80,000 visitors and 1,400 exhibitors from 30 countries around the world. At this major event 13 Queensland companies were among 57 Australian companies showcased at the Australian Pavilion organised by Austrade. Our government recognises that the mining industry potential in Latin America and our agencies have helped many local companies establish business links with the region and Expomin 2014 was a great opportunity to expand those business links. We also believe that there is a need for mining states from around the world to work together as much as possible to share information and learn from each other's experiences as they find solutions to what are common issues.

This concept of a 'loose' confederation of mining states from around the world was discussed by me and Minister Cripps on a number of occasions during our mission with mining ministers from other jurisdictions and other states. There is undoubtedly support for resources states to work together because the issues and challenges that the mining industry in Australia faces are the same issues faced in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique. All of those places are jurisdictions with whom we, as a responsible state government, will continue to build relationships centred around the shared interest we have in the mining sector.

At this recent mission we were also able to sign agreements with the Chilean region of Antofagasta—and I still cannot say it properly—and the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. I also took the opportunity to meet with executives of Brazilian mining giant Vale and the major meat processor JBS Swift, who owns major processing plants at Dinmore just outside Brisbane and at Lakes Creek in Rockhampton. We assured them that Queensland was 'open for business' and recognised their contribution to our state's economy and the jobs that they provide for Queenslanders. Our

government knows that it is important to promote business opportunities for Queensland companies offshore and we will continue to take an active role in championing the great opportunities in our great state.

In conclusion, I want to thank especially two staff members who accompanied us, Sandy Williams from my department and Sam Laurie from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. They gave up their Easter holidays and the Anzac Day holiday as well to ensure that Minister Cripps and I could meet the onerous schedule that was involved in travelling in Latin America. Travelling to mining communities, no matter where they are across the world, is never going to be glamorous, but it is the travel that, as a resources state, we must undertake to ensure we have the right connections with other resources states across the world who face the same challenges as Queensland.