




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Galilee Basin, Rail Corridors

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.09 pm): Our government has a strong plan for a bright future in Queensland's regions based around the resources and agricultural pillars of the economy. The Galilee Basin is an important part of that plan. I endorse the comments that were made by the Premier about the results of the recent election in India and the success of Mr Modi. At the end of last year when I was in India on a trade mission I had an opportunity to meet Mr Modi and talk about the economic development that his government had undertaken in the state of Gujarat. The prospect of those economic development policies being applied to the huge Indian economy certainly presents a lot of opportunities for Queensland.

We are prepared here in Queensland to do the job of a grown-up government; to plan and make decisions for the future rather than Labor's do-nothing approach in the hope that the difficult situation would just go away. Nowhere was that more evident than the spaghetti junction of rail lines that they had set out to allow in the Galilee Basin. When we came to government Labor's ineptitude had led to up to six separate proposals for rail lines to be built from the proposed Galilee Basin mines to the coast. Six separate sets of landholders and communities were faced with the prospect of having rail lines running across their regions. When we came to government that changed. We promised to support growth in both the resources and the agricultural pillars of our economy. We recognised how important it was to properly plan to provide the critical infrastructure needed to unlock the resource-rich Galilee Basin and provide jobs for thousands of Queenslanders for generations to come. Under Labor there was no plan, no certainty for job seekers and certainly no certainty for either landholders or investors.

On 6 June 2012 our government announced that it would support just two rail corridors in the Galilee Basin, one east-west corridor and one north-south corridor. We identified what we called preferred corridors that would provide the rail access needed to allow the development of the region's mining projects but, very importantly, would minimise the uncertainty and the physical impact on landholders, on the environment and on communities. Since that announcement the Coordinator-General has conducted extensive community and stakeholder consultation on the proposed declaration of a Galilee Basin State Development Area within which the government's powers of compulsory land acquisition may be exercised. Overwhelmingly the view of the community is that the area covered by the state development area must be minimised to reduce impact on landholders.

On Monday last, cabinet reaffirmed its June 2012 policy position that only two multi-user corridors are needed to service the needs of the Galilee Basin. Consistent with what we said in 2012, there needs to be one corridor to service the southern end of the basin and one corridor to service the central part of the basin. It has become increasingly clear to me that the corridors best placed to

service the region are the rail corridor approved in the Alpha Coal Project joining into the Aurizon network and the rail corridors being developed in the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project and the North Galilee Basin Rail Project.

My clear view is that these two corridors reflect the projects that are best placed in their approval processes, they have a pit to port capability and they continue to advance in a manner which suggests they are serious about moving forward. We have a strong plan to unlock the economic potential of the Galilee Basin and our plan will provide a bright future for local communities and jobs for Queenslanders in the future