




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coordinator-General

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.40 am): When this government was elected, just over two years ago, economic growth in Queensland had stalled. Under Labor, government processes were frustrating investment, both large and small. Red tape, green tape and bureaucratic processes had strangled economic growth in this state. Now in opposition the same people talk about economic growth as the saviour of the state. They killed it when they were in government.

We promised to build the economy of Queensland. We promised to drive economic growth, to provide jobs and business opportunities for all Queenslanders. An important part of achieving that was to refocus the role of Queensland's Coordinator-General. We restored and repowered the office of the Coordinator-General towards recognising and assessing in a timely fashion projects that present real growth opportunities for Queensland. We very deliberately created the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning as the department that was to drive economic growth and build the economy of this state.

In just under 26 months the Coordinator-General has made 300 statutory decisions regarding future economic growth projects in Queensland. This rate is no mean feat and reflects what this government is about in delivering its promise to grow the Queensland economy and bring to fruition the projects that future generations of Queenslanders will need for jobs and prosperity. The Coordinator-General's statutory decision rate is 2½ times greater than under the Labor government. The independent Coordinator-General under our government is 2½ times faster at making things happen than the Coordinator-General was under Labor. This translates to a total EIS assessment time of less than two years from start to finish. Under the Labor government, EIS assessments took more than four years. Some of them took seven years.

What does this mean for the Queensland economy and Queenslanders? It means 12 projects worth almost \$60 billion have been approved which have the potential to create more than 37,000 jobs for Queenslanders. These have included mega-Galilee Basin projects like the recent approval of Adani's Carmichael project. This renewed focus by the Queensland government and the Coordinator-General is all about creating jobs and economic opportunities for tens of thousands of Queenslanders now and in the future. It is about creating new, well-paid jobs in the resources and construction industry for people right across Queensland. These megaprojects also provide more opportunities for local businesses that, in turn, will be able to employ more Queenslanders.

The Coordinator-General now also closely monitors the actual delivery of the projects by overseeing progress with subsequent approvals and time lines across 11 projects that have prescribed project status. This is a major new area of focus for the Coordinator-General to ensure that his powers can be used to make the projects happen, not just approve them. The government is doing everything it can to ensure these projects are delivered to provide the jobs for Queenslanders

and the opportunities for Queensland businesses. Three hundred statutory decisions by the Coordinator-General in just under 26 months is hard evidence that this government has delivered genuine reforms that will drive genuine economic development and deliver a strong plan for a brighter future for Queensland and jobs and businesses for generations of Queenslanders to come.