



Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Planning

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.10 pm): Yesterday the Treasurer outlined a responsible budget strategy that puts forward a strong plan for a brighter future for all Queenslanders. This budget builds on the careful, considered work that this government has done over the last two years to rein in expenses and put Queensland's finances back on track.

Our strategy when we came to power was also about driving economic growth to get Queensland back on track. Under Labor, economic growth had stalled, planning processes had bogged down, nobody could get anything approved in appropriate time frames and investors were taking their money elsewhere. We have changed all that with a very deliberate strategy to ensure Queensland is open for business. As I spoke about yesterday, an important part of getting things moving again was restoring the role of the Coordinator-General and the effectiveness of his office in approving major projects. Equally, planning reform had a very important role to play in reinvigorating the Queensland economy and getting Queensland back on track. Better planning and infrastructure is the key to building the Queensland that we all need and our kids will need in the future.

Planning reform can seem to be a pretty boring, dry subject, but is critically important to ensure that the economy grows and investors can invest. Just as the Treasurer inherited a financial mess, we inherited a mess in the department of planning. We have set about reforming the planning process from top to bottom so economic growth can occur in Queensland. We changed acts, we changed regulations but, mostly importantly, we changed the culture of planning in Queensland. Planning is now about facilitating opportunities for people to achieve their aspirations rather than smothering their initiatives, as the Labor Party did. The dead hand of DERM, which my colleague the Minister for Environment spoke about yesterday, ensured that all initiative was killed and the Queensland economy was slowly dying.

We now have a single State Planning Policy replacing Labor's 14 confused, contradictory state policies. We have a one-stop shop state-wide planning and referral agency. We have the Regional Planning Interests Act introducing a whole new system of regional planning right across Queensland. We have not finished yet.

This year the planning for Queensland's development bill will further simplify Queensland's planning and development system and will replace the cumbersome Sustainable Planning Act. Our government's simple, consistent planning laws are about encouraging investment—investment that is about growing the economy to provide jobs and business opportunities for Queenslanders today and tomorrow. Growing the economy is a key part of this government's budget strategy and economic growth is a key part of our strong plan for a brighter future.