



Speech By  
**Hon. Jeff Seeney**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 June 2014

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Ports Strategy**

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): This government has a strong plan to grow the state economy to ensure a brighter future for all Queenslanders. When we came to government we recognised that economic growth would be critical to provide a pathway out of the economic mire left by Labor. We committed to growing the four pillars of the economy. We developed our overarching economic development strategy called Governing for Growth. I am sure all members are familiar with it. All departments were involved in developing it.

It is noteworthy that the opposition in this place have never asked one question about our economic growth strategy. So interested are they in economic growth that they have never asked one question about the government's overarching Governing for Growth economic strategy.

Building on the economic growth strategy that was Governing for Growth, we are developing a number of subordinate economic growth strategies. Today, I table the first of those—the Queensland Ports Strategy—for the consideration of the parliament.

*Tabled paper:* Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning: Queensland Ports Strategy, 2014 [\[5335\]](#).

Port infrastructure is essential for getting Queensland coal to market. It is essential for getting Queensland's primary production into international markets. It is a responsibility of the government to ensure the timely provision of that infrastructure to meet the needs of these growing industries.

Ports are essential to unlock the potential of the resource rich Galilee Basin, which could deliver 28,000 Queensland jobs in the future. This strategy that I have tabled today sets the direction for how our ports developments will occur in Queensland. Even in its draft form, the strategy has already been recognised by UNESCO's World Heritage Commission as being the right way to go to continue our high level of protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

This strategy will ensure Queensland will lead the way with an efficient port network that supports economic growth and protects the environment. It includes 18 actions, the most significant of which is our plan to declare five priority port development areas at the long-established major ports of Abbot Point, Brisbane, Gladstone, Hay Point, Mackay and Townsville.

At these ports the government will facilitate staged, incremental expansion of port and terminal capacity to meet emerging demands. Development at priority port development areas will be involved by leading practice master planning which takes into account operational, economic, environmental and social issues. The Queensland Ports Strategy reinforces our government's commitment to protecting the environment, including the Great Barrier Reef, and growing the state economy. This sensible strategy will ensure that the pristine areas of the Great Barrier Reef are protected while concentrating port development in the long-established major port areas.

Our government's approach is consistent with UNESCO World Heritage committee's recommendations for the government to restrict port development to areas within or adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area to existing major ports. The government will seal our commitment to major port reform through the introduction of a ports bill to parliament. Unlike Labor's haphazard approach to port planning, our port strategy will not allow 38 million tonnes of material to be dredged at Abbot Point. We will allow just over three million tonnes to be dredged, in stark contrast. The Queensland Ports Strategy shows that we are the ones with a strong plan that will deliver a brighter future for the environment, a strong plan that will deliver a brighter future for all Queenslanders.