1. Expansion of the Port of Abbot Point is critical to unlock the ‘greenfield’ Galilee Basin, which covers an area of approximately 247,000 square kilometres and contains a very large inferred resource of mostly volatile, low sulphur thermal coal. The opening up of the Galilee Basin has the potential to create significant long-term benefits for Queensland, with job creation in mining, construction and other supporting industries as well as mining and petroleum royalties to be paid to the state.
2. Capital dredging will be necessary to create new berth pockets and ship apron approach areas offshore from the Port of Abbot Point to enable large bulk carriers to access the new trestles and wharves proposed for new coal terminals.
3. On 11 March 2015, the government announced the Abbot Point Growth Gateway project to facilitate the onshore placement of dredged material from the expansion of the Port of Abbot Point on unallocated industrial land at the port known as Terminal 2 (adjoining the existing Terminal 1) and adjoining industrial land.
4. Cabinet approved that the Department of State Development lead the management of the approvals stage of the Abbot Point Growth Gateway project with support from North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, in accordance with a transition plan for North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation to take full responsibility for the construction and long-term management of the onshore disposal facilities.
5. *Attachments*
* Nil.