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. In 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 (adjacent to the existing Terminal 1) and adjoining industrial land. The Department of State Development has managed the approvals and design stage of Abbot Point Growth Gateway project with support from North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, the port authority for the Port of Abbot Point.
4. Cabinet approved that following the completion of the approvals and design stage the Department of State Development transfer responsibility for the Abbot Point Growth Gateway project to North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation to manage all further project activities.
5. *Attachments*
* Nil.