

**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliamentary Estimates Committee Hearings 2020
Question on Notice**

QUESTION 1

QUESTION:

With reference to page 166 of the SDS regarding continuous improvement in QLD's disaster management - will the Minister please advise how our disaster management communications have been improved to ensure that confusing and delayed information are not experienced again as occurred during the Peregian, Cooroibah and North Shore fires in November 2019?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) undertook a review of the bushfire at Peregian Springs in September 2019. The *2019 Queensland Bushfires Review* was focused on consolidating recommendations of the previous *2018 Queensland Bushfires Review* and providing observations and insights from the September 2019 events. The review highlighted good practice and opportunities for improvement.

Examples of good practice included bushfire community education activities that were undertaken during the season. These included pop-up events, school visits and community forums. Community forums were livestreamed on Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) online platforms allowing people to participate virtually.

The review also noted opportunities for improvement including displaying community bushfire warnings in order of urgency, clarifying evacuation terminology in warning messages to the community, opportunities to add mapping functionality and fire location details to warning messages.

QFES has also advised that the systems and language of bushfire warnings in our state have evolved considerably in recent years, and more enhancements are underway. Information and warnings are sent out via social media and traditional media channels and emergency alerts are sent out via mobile and landline telephones.

During the 2019–20 fire season, which includes the Sunshine Coast fires referenced by the Member, QFES issued over 3,000 bushfire community warnings and 83 emergency alert campaigns to keep communities informed. With many thousands of people taking actions based on QFES bushfire warnings, Queenslanders kept themselves and their loved ones safe.

QFES is represented at a national level, actively contributing to the development of a national warnings system which will improve warnings consistency across the country.

The national warnings system will see a common warnings approach across several natural hazards, including consistent warning levels and the standard use of colours and icons.

Importantly, 'clear call to action' statements, which are used front and centre in warnings issued, will also be used nationally to ensure communities can make well informed decisions about what actions they will take in the face of a crisis.

Here in Queensland, we are ahead of this important change. QFES introduced 'clear call to action' statements as part of bushfire warnings several years ago, with changes backed by evidence from the Queensland University of Technology.

QFES is committed to continuously reviewing and enhancing all incident management functions, including the provision of public information and warnings. As technologies evolve, we must continue to advance Queensland's approach to incident and disaster public information.

I am informed by QFES that a *Shaping Future Information and Warnings Project* is underway.

The project includes a review and expected update of bushfire warnings language to ensure the information provided to Queensland communities in their time of need is very clear.

We know the timeliness of information during emergencies is also critical, so the project is also streamlining processes and enhancing systems to ensure the flow of critical incident information is swift.

Much of this work will be in place by next bushfire season, and will ensure Queensland communities continue to receive timely, clear and accurate bushfire warnings into the future.

In addition to information and warnings, QFES, through its national arrangements has the ability to provide an Emergency Alert (EA) as its highest means of informing the public of a pending emergency. These can be sent out via mobile and landline telephones.

Since its inception following the recommendations of the Victoria Black Saturday Royal Commission, there have been three phases of development involving EA. Each phase has provided significant improvements on the previous phase, including an increase in character sets, better coverage and more accurate deployment of the EA to specific community groups.

QFES is part of a national EA development group that is chaired by Emergency Management Victoria and involves all Australian states and territories. The group is currently moving to the final phase of EA Phase Three, whilst EA Phase Four is being developed. It is expected EA Phase Four will go live as of 1 September 2021. EA Phase Four will once again, provide improvements over phase three as outlined above. The Federal Government has set up a working group to assess alternative means of providing EA and information and warnings to communities in the future.

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QUESTION 2

QUESTION:

With reference to service highlights on page 172 of the SDS. As part of effective enforcement and improvement of safety and behaviours on roads, within our recreation areas, and to expand the capacity for our emergency responders - will the Minister please advise when UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) will be introduced in the Noosa Electorate?

ANSWER:

The QPS has advised that a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is currently stationed in the Sunshine Coast Police District.

This RPA was most recently used as part of the investigation into a tragic incident at Teewah Beach.

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QUESTION 3

QUESTION:

With reference to page 175 of the SDS 1 which details FTE staffing, will the Minister advise the total number of approved and actual police strength for the Queensland Police Service (reported separately) as at 30 November 2020 in: (a) Queensland; (b) each police district; and (c) each police region?

ANSWER:

The allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to funding an additional 2025 police personnel across Queensland over the next five years, commencing 1 July 2020.

Under this government, there are more Police in Queensland than ever before, working hard to keep the community safe.

Following the Commissioner's announcement that the QPS will establish two additional policing regions, please note that the QPS is currently amending the boundaries for QPS policing regions and policing districts. These new boundaries will be finalised during 2021. Accordingly, the data below will not be able to be compared with the data for the policing regions and policing districts with new boundaries.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the table below reflects the total Queensland police strength (a) as at 30 November 2020:

	APPROVED PERM POSN	HEAD COUNT
TOTAL QLD POLICE STRENGTH	12042	12279

Further, the QPS has advised the tables below reflect the police strength by region (c) and district (b) as at 30 November 2020:

District / Region	APPR PERM POSN (Including Central Functions)	HEAD COUNT (Including Central Functions)
NORTH BRISBANE DISTRICT	1346	1356
SOUTH BRISBANE DISTRICT	1178	1218
BRISBANE REGION (INCLUDING REGION FUNCTIONS)	2544	2594
CAPRICORNIA DISTRICT	553	587
MACKAY DISTRICT	369	393
SUNSHINE COAST DISTRICT	547	542
WIDE BAY BURNETT DISTRICT	494	505
CENTRAL REGION (INCLUDING REGION FUNCTIONS)	1973	2036
FAR NORTH DISTRICT	886	921
MT ISA DISTRICT	204	214
TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT	710	714
NORTHERN REGION (INCLUDING REGION FUNCTIONS)	1810	1861
GOLD COAST DISTRICT	1034	1071
LOGAN DISTRICT	726	751
SOUTH EASTERN REGION (INCLUDING REGION FUNCTIONS)	1812	1872
DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT	448	478
IPSWICH DISTRICT	461	486
MORETON DISTRICT	451	473
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT	355	383
SOUTHERN REGION (INCLUDING REGION FUNCTIONS)	1725	1830

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QUESTION 4

QUESTION:

With reference to page 175 of the SDS 1 which details FTE staffing, will the Minister advise – (a) The targeted police recruitment reported separately by year from 2014-15 to 2020-21 (b) The actual number of police recruits sworn in reported separately by year from 2014-15 to 2019-20 (c) The number of police staff attrition reported separately by year from 2014-15 to 2019-20?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that police recruitment takes a number of factors into consideration when determining recruit numbers, such as projected sworn officer attrition, projected operational policing needs and emerging issues to ensure the policing needs of communities are met and maintained in line with community safety standards.

Therefore, the QPS has advised that the provision of this particular data would not provide an accurate comparison on a year to year basis.

Further, the QPS has advised that the provision of police staff attrition over the period in question would not provide an accurate comparison against the numbers of new police recruits sworn in over that same period as, among other things, police staff includes both sworn and unsworn members of the QPS.

However, I appreciate the Committee's interest in the number of police recruits sworn in over the period in question. As such, the QPS has provided the below table:

Financial Year	Actual Recruits Sworn In
2014-15	328
2015-16	625
2016-17	338
2017-18	359
2018-19	363
2019-20	595

In addition, this government is proud of its record investment in the QPS which has ensured that the QPS now has a record number of sworn officers – more than 12,000 – the largest number in Queensland history.

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QUESTION 5

QUESTION:

With reference to page 172 of the SDS 1 which details the Police Service 'service standards' for road fatalities, will the Minister outline: (a) The top five reasons for road accidents and fatalities in Queensland reported separately by year from 2014-15 to 2019-20 (b) Road fatalities for each police district from 2014-15 to 2019-20?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has provided the following data in response to the Member's question:

(a)

2014-15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Exceeding speed limit 3. Impaired by illicit drugs 4. Travelling too fast for the road conditions 5. Inexperience/lack of expertise Cross double lines/single line Inattention/negligence
2015-16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Exceeding speed limit 3. Impaired by illicit drugs 4. Travelling too fast for the road conditions 5. Inexperience/lack of expertise
2016-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Impaired by illicit drugs 3. Exceeding speed limit 4. Travelling too fast for the road conditions 5. Inattention/negligence
2017-18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Exceeding the speed limit 3. Impaired by illicit drugs 4. Fatigue/fell asleep 5. Inexperience/lack of expertise Inattention/negligence
2018-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Impaired by illicit drugs 3. Exceeding speed limit 4. Travelling too fast for the road conditions 5. Inexperience/lack of expertise
2019-20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affected by Liquor 2. Impaired by illicit drugs 3. Exceeding speed limit 4. Fatigue/fell asleep 5. Medical condition (heart attack, epilepsy, etc.)

(b)

District	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
North Brisbane	15	18	17	15	14	17
South Brisbane	9	24	15	25	14	12
Capricornia	21	16	13	17	16	16
Mackay	17	12	20	19	14	21
Sunshine Coast	18	8	21	14	16	14
Wide Bay Burnett	23	30	34	28	30	22
Far North	35	23	26	19	30	24
Mount Isa	5	3	1	7	3	6
Townsville	4	16	15	12	17	21
Gold Coast	11	17	14	21	14	11
Logan	11	8	23	20	8	12
Darling Downs	17	28	13	16	17	18
Ipswich	8	23	11	14	15	16
Moreton	21	9	14	11	10	12
South West	21	10	18	17	21	17

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QUESTION 6

QUESTION:

With reference to page 172 of the SDS 1 which details the Police Service 'service standards' for young offenders, will the Minister outline: (a) The total number of offences committed by juveniles in Townsville reported separately by year from 2017 to 2020 (b) The total number of individual juvenile offenders in Townsville reported separately by year from 2017 to 2020 (c) The total number of recidivist juvenile offenders reported in Townsville separately by year from 2017 to 2020?

ANSWER:

In response to this question, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has provided the below table:

	2017	2018	2019
a)	2645	2793	3071
b)	916	1007	976
c)	450	499	500

1. This data is preliminary and may be subject to change.

2. Recidivist Offenders are identified by 2 or more offences within the same reported calendar year.

3. Data relates to the Townsville metropolitan area (comprising the police divisions of Townsville, Kirwan, Mundingburra, Stuart and Deeragun).

It is important to note that all data on unique young offenders from 2008–09 to 2017-18 includes 10 to 16-year-olds and 2018-19 data includes 10 to 17-year-olds for the full 12-month reference period. Accordingly, it would not be accurate to compare, year against year, the data in the table above.

As we have not reached the end of the 2020 calendar year, the QPS is unable to provide a final figure at this time.

Further, I can advise that the whole-of-state number of young offenders has reduced by 30% and is the lowest it has been for a decade.

In response to young offenders, this government is undertaking a Five Point Plan which is focussed on holding young offenders to account while also preventing criminal offending and breaking the cycle of reoffending. Actions under the Five Point Plan include:

- Tougher action on bail;
- A police blitz on bail applications, appealing court decisions where appropriate;

- Police Strike Team involving youth justice workers for high risk offenders;
- Culture-based rehabilitation for Indigenous offenders through new On Country initiatives trialled in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa; and
- \$2 million for community-based organisations for local community-based solutions to local issues.

In addition, the government has amended the Youth Justice Act to make it absolutely clear to the courts that community safety must come first.

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QUESTION 7

QUESTION:

With reference to page 148 of the SDS 1 corrective services 'promoting safety through humane containment, rehabilitation and reintegration' service standards, will the Minister outline: (a) The number of serious assaults (prisoner on officer) as well as the proportional percentage of this figure to the prison population reported separately by year from 2015 to 2020; (b) The number of assaults (prisoner on officer) as well as the proportional percentage of this figure to the prison population reported separately by year from 2015 to 2020; (c) The number of serious assaults (prisoner on prisoner) as well as the proportional percentage of this figure to the prison population reported separately by year from 2015 to 2020; (d) The number of assaults (prisoner on prisoner) as well as the proportional percentage of this figure to the prison population reported separately by year from 2015 to 2020?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the correctional system.

Corrective Services Officers work in highly dynamic and complex situations and QCS is committed to implementing measures to increase safety and address violence within correctional centres.

Prisoners who assault officers or other prisoners face consequences for their actions including possible extension of their imprisonment term.

The below table details the number and proportional percentage of serious assaults and assaults perpetrated by prisoners on staff and on other prisoners from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	Proportional percentage	Number	Proportional percentage	Number	Proportional percentage	Number	Proportional percentage	Number	Proportional percentage
Serious assaults (prisoner on officer)	1	0.01%	9	0.11%	6	0.07%	7	0.08%	9	0.1%
Assaults (prisoner on officer)	68	0.9%	82	1.01%	49	0.57%	78	0.87%	68	0.77%
Serious assault (prisoner on prisoner)	169	2.25%	250	3.08%	254	2.94%	250	2.8%	300	3.38%
Assault (prisoner on prisoner)	533	7.09%	853	10.49%	735	8.52%	821	9.2%	871	9.81%

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QUESTION 8

QUESTION:

With reference to page 148 of the SDS 1 corrective services 'service area highlight' – will the Minister outline: (a) The total cost to the government in bringing private operated prisons back under state control; (b) The date the handover to the state was finalised (c) The new total available capacity within Queensland Corrective Services facilities as of 30 November 2020, and (d) The total number of inmates within Queensland Corrective Services as of 30 November 2020?

ANSWER:

On 26 March 2019, this government proudly announced its decision to transition Queensland's two privately run prisons, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, to public operation. I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) that the transition will increase staffing ratios and program delivery and strengthen corruption resistance at both prisons.

QCS named this transition project: "Operation Certitude"; and despite the unprecedented challenges of 2020, to date, QCS has met all milestones as part of this historic transition. As previously and publicly announced, Operation Certitude is funded at \$111M over four years.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre was successfully transitioned to public operation on 1 July 2020.

Phase 2 of the Operation Certitude is now well underway, with the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre on track to transition to public operation on 1 July 2021.

The significant enhancement in the transition of Queensland's privately-operated prisons to public operation is that QCS is investing additional resources to improve the safety and security of both prisons by increasing the existing staff-to-prisoner ratios. The cost for both centres covers enhanced resources to improve performance management and oversight of complex prison operations. For Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, further infrastructure enhancements were completed for safer cell bunk beds and upgrades to the medical centre.

As at 30 November 2020, QCS managed 9446 prisoners in custody and had 9859 built beds in correctional facilities across the State.

Due to modern custodial facilities and long-standing efficient operations, Queensland has the lowest custodial operating cost per prisoner per day of any Australian jurisdiction.

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QUESTION 9

QUESTION:

With reference to page 148 of the SDS 1 corrective services Service Area Highlight to manage the increasing demand on the criminal justice system', will the Minister outline: (a) How many of the 33 recommendations from Taskforce Flaxton have been implemented; (b) Which of the Taskforce Flaxton recommendations have not yet been implemented?

ANSWER:

Of the 33 recommendations made by Taskforce Flaxton, all were supported or supported-in-principle by government.

I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that all 33 recommendations are currently in progress or otherwise complete.

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QUESTION 10

QUESTION:

With reference to page 148 of the SDS 1 corrective services Service Area Highlight to 'manage the increasing demand on the criminal justice system', will the Minister outline: (a) How many of the 91 recommendations from the Queensland Parole System Review have been implemented; and (b) Which of the Queensland Parole System Review recommendations have not yet been implemented?

ANSWER:

Queensland Corrective Services is leading the implementation of the most comprehensive overhaul of our parole system in Queensland's history.

The Queensland Parole System Review final report to government contained 91 recommendations, of which 89 were supported, or supported in principle.

Of the 89 recommendations, I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that all 89 recommendations are currently in progress or otherwise complete.

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QUESTION 11

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-148 of the Service Delivery Statement under Corrective Services, which refers to commitments and priorities to continue to safely manage the demands of a growing prison population, will the Minister please provide details of steps taken and steps planned, including funding, infrastructure, policies and programs, to achieve this end?

ANSWER:

In 2019-20 QCS:

- commenced foundation work to design and build the health and rehabilitation focused, 1000-bed, Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct – Stage 2 funded at \$653.978M with construction due for completion in 2023;
- continued the expansion of the 348-bed expansion of Capricornia Correctional Centre funded at \$241M, with construction and final commissioning works due to be completed in 2021; and
- continued the installation of a second allocation of 1000 bunk beds across Queensland correctional centres.

These projects, once complete, will take the total number of additional bed capacity delivered by the Palaszczuk Government to more than 4,000.

The Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR) reforms include increasing rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners to address key, underlying causes of offending and recidivism. In 2019-20, QCS continued this work by:

- making significant progress to improve end-to-end case management in the correctional system, with the first Case Management Unit to be rolled out and piloted at Townsville Correctional Centre;
- continuing to enhance training programs for frontline community corrections officers in partnership with Griffith University;
- continuing to expand rehabilitation programs in correctional centres and community corrections, including alcohol and other drug programs and services;
- establishing post release supported accommodation services for parolees in four locations across Queensland, including Toowoomba, Moreton Bay, Cairns and Townsville; and
- continuing Opioid Substitution Treatment programs.

Other measures implemented include bail support programs and re-entry services to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

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QUESTION 12

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-147 of the Service Delivery Statement under Corrective Services, which refers to safer correctional environments, will the Minister please advise the Committee of the steps taken to ensure the safety of Queensland's prison facilities during the COVID-19 health pandemic?

ANSWER:

This government is committed to maintaining community safety, and took significant steps to ensure the safety of Queensland's correctional centres and community corrections facilities during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 health pandemic, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) maintained business continuity, the security of our correctional centres, the safety of our officers, and the wellbeing of the people in our centres, in our care and under our supervision in the community.

Despite some QCS staff contracting COVID-19, to date, through the extraordinary work of every officer in QCS, the department has successfully kept the prison-population free of COVID-19. This is in part due to the strong and effective policies and planning that were underpinned by the very best clinical advice from the Chief Health Officer and Queensland Health.

This is a truly remarkable achievement and I thank each and every Corrective Services Officer and Queensland Health practitioner for their unwavering commitment to keeping Queensland safe.

Like all other frontline public safety agencies, the pandemic has brought about unique challenges for Queensland Corrective Services in managing more than 9400 prisoners and 18000 offenders in the community.

In order to maintain the safety and wellbeing of officers, prisoners and offenders in the community, QCS activated the State Corrections Operations Centre (SCOC) in March 2020 as the engine room of all policies and procedures to navigate the organisation through the pandemic.

The SCOC has worked diligently with its Queensland Health counterparts to ensure QCS' operations during the pandemic are supported by the clinical advice of the Chief Health Officer. Supported by the Chief Health Officer's public health emergency

declaration, the Commissioner has the power to authorise certain measures in response to the threat of COVID-19.

In practical effect, this means that with the most contemporaneous advice from the Chief Health Officer, the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre and the COVID-19 Incident Management Team, the Commissioner is empowered to implement a range of restrictions from visitor exclusions through to the complete lockdown of correctional facilities if the health advice supports that course of action.

The Commissioner's powers and restrictions are underpinned with key policies, guidelines and tools which govern the management of COVID-19 for Custodial Operations and Community Corrections frontline operations.

These include:

- Hotspot Response Planning Tool
- Managing Vulnerable Prisoners Policy
- Managing New Admission Reception Prisoners and COVID-19 Isolation Policy.

The Hotspot Response Planning Tool outlines four stages of restrictions in correctional centres and community corrections offices according to the local level of risk of community transmission, based on Queensland Health advice.

QCS' Hotspot Planning Tools also allow officers, visitors and stakeholders to quickly understand the restrictions in place at each location, and the policies at each site, under each stage.

The Managing Vulnerable Prisoners Policy enables correctional centres to implement greater levels of protection for prisoners identified by Queensland Health as vulnerable to infectious disease.

The Managing New Admission Reception Prisoners and COVID-19 Isolation Policy requires new reception prisoners to undergo health checks and, if determined by Queensland Health, be isolated and monitored for symptoms.

Staff and visitors also undergo temperature checks upon entry into all correctional centres and the Academy.

I am pleased to advise that across Queensland our correctional facilities and community corrections remain at Stage 1 restrictions – the lowest restrictions that focus on good hygiene practice, infection control and social distancing among other measures – in line with the current advice of the Chief Health Officer.

The QCS Hotspot Response Planning and QCS policies are tried and tested. This pandemic has demonstrated the ability QCS had to respond quickly and effectively to outbreaks when they occur in the community. This work is most certainly at the forefront of public safety.

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QUESTION 13

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-147 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Departmental Overview of Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), which refers to the contribution of QCS to Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan by working to protect Queenslanders, save lives and to Unite & Recover for Queensland jobs, will the Minister outline the frontline jobs being delivered in Queensland's correctional facilities and the actions that have been taken and actions planned to keep communities safe and to support those frontline jobs now and into the future?

ANSWER

This government is committed to ensuring community safety through the delivery of safe and humane correctional services.

We are continuing to significantly increase the capacity of our high security correctional centres and invest in frontline correctional resources.

Currently, the second largest Queensland Government building and construction project after Cross River Rail is the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct – Stage 2 (SQCP-S2) construction project. This project will support, on average, over 400 jobs per annum during construction. At peak times during construction, almost 900 jobs are expected to be supported as a result of this project. In addition, hundreds of permanent jobs will be based at this new correctional centre once it become operational.

In addition to the jobs that this project will support, the new centre will also give a significant and ongoing boost for the local economy of the Lockyer Valley and surrounding regions.

This new correctional centre will deliver approximately 1,000 new high security beds for male prisoners and be state-of-the-art. In a first for our State, the centre will be purpose built to support a therapeutic operating model. To enhance community safety, this therapeutic operating model will include enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, with a particular focus on addressing the ice epidemic.

Design works are well underway across a number of government departments with subject matter experts each working to ensure the centre meets the highest standards of safety and security.

This new infrastructure will support End-to-End Case Management including re-entry services and the provision of enhanced programs, interview spaces, videoconferencing technology and integrated health services.

The total capital budget for SQCP-S2 is \$653.978M with \$110.2M allocated this year to support the commencement of construction. Construction is expected to be underway in early 2021.

The practical completion of SQCP-S2 is expected in late 2023, with operational commissioning to occur from late 2023 to early 2024 pending any further potential impacts of COVID-19.

The \$241M Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion is also supporting jobs and growth in Central Queensland, while also increasing prison capacity.

Throughout the construction phase, the expansion will support more than 170 jobs over four years in the central Queensland region and deliver more than 230 new ongoing jobs and promising careers in corrections upon completion.

In addition, there will be ongoing, long-term benefits for the region with opportunities for local businesses to provide supplies and services to assist in the running of the correctional centre.

Local suppliers of food, medical supplies and industries materials, and services such as medical practitioners, trades people for ongoing maintenance, waste management and cleaners.

As at 30 June 2020, expenditure for the project was \$192.5M.

As part of this government's 2020-21 State Budget, the remaining \$48.5M will be allocated to complete this project.

This represents a significant investment in the Central Queensland Region, both in terms of jobs during construction and in the future with the operation of the expanded facility.

Construction of the expansion project is nearing completion. Once construction is complete and the expanded centre is fully commissioned, an additional 100 secure cells, 188 residential cells, and a 60-cell observation block will be delivered.

That's 348 cells of additional custodial capacity which ultimately contributes to safer prisons for our hard-working officers across Queensland and more opportunities for prisoners to rehabilitate and address their offending behaviours.

In addition to the 348 new cells, the expansion will include new infrastructure to support the larger operation of the centre, such as a centralised laundry, master plan kitchen and other infrastructure improvements.

Both of these construction projects are all supporting Queensland's economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic.

QCS has also increased staffing in response to increased prisoner numbers at existing centres. When prisoner numbers increase, Queensland Treasury provides QCS with additional funding to recognise the additional costs associated with operating a prison with additional prisoners. The additional funding allows for increased staff resources and non-labour related costs at each correctional centre. On this basis, I am advised that an additional 46 positions will be created during 2020-21 to support custodial operations.

This government has invested in both prison infrastructure and additional staff. This investment is driven by our commitment to protect Queenslanders and keep communities safe.

This government is also committed to keeping QCS officers and staff safe.

That's why we support QCS' work to become the best trained and equipped correctional agency in Australasia. This work is already underway with, among other things, the development of a new Tactical Options and Skills training model, additional and enhanced tactical options and skills training; the deployment of OC spray or gel to prisoner-facing posts at all male high-security correctional centres, as well as the escort unit within the Escort and Security Branch; and the expansion of body worn camera use.

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QUESTION 14

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-157 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Departmental Overview of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, which refers to enhancing community safety by minimising the impact of fire, emergency events and disasters on the people, property, environment and economy of Queensland, will the Minister please provide details of the actions taken by QFES in relation to the Fraser Island bushfire?

ANSWER:

I am advised that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has been working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfires.

QFES has advised that crews have been responding to fires through both ground and air responses.

I am advised by QFES that there have been multiple fronts on the island and that crews have used water bombing aircraft to assist ground crews to reduce the fire's intensity and rate of spread.

I am further advised that fire suppression using aircraft alone is not achievable on K'gari (Fraser Island) due to the vegetation type, sand island profile and inaccessibility for ground crews to mop up.

I commend the crews that have been working under trying conditions to battle the blaze.

The Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) has been tasked to conduct an independent review of the bushfire on K'gari (Fraser Island).

Section 16C of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* outlines the following functions for the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, including:

- to regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the State disaster management plan and its implementation;
- to regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by district groups and local groups, including district and local disaster management plans;

- to regularly review and assess cooperation between entities responsible for disaster management in the State, including whether the disaster management systems and procedures employed by those entities are compatible and consistent;
- to identify opportunities for cooperative partnerships to improve disaster management outcomes;
- to report to, and advise, the Minister about issues relating to the functions above
- to make all necessary inquiries to fulfil the functions above.

In accordance with these functions, for the bushfire event on K'gari (Fraser Island) that occurred from October 2020, the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (the Office) will assess:

- (1) the effectiveness of preparedness activities; and
- (2) the response to the bushfire event

by entities responsible for the management of the island and bushfire and disaster management in Queensland (the Review). The Review should also have regard to the cultural and environmental significance of K'gari as reflected in relevant management plans, and its UNESCO World Heritage listing.

In conducting the Review, the Office will ensure good practice and any opportunities for improvement are highlighted in the report.

I am advised the Office will work closely with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Environment and Science including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Police Service, local, state and federal agencies, the Butchulla people, and other relevant stakeholders to obtain information necessary to the Review. The Review is to invite submissions from the community.

The Review should consider the 2018 and 2019 Queensland Bushfires Reviews and consolidate previous observations, insights and recommendations to ensure Queensland Government has the best advice on the capability necessary to effectively prevent and respond to bushfire activity in Queensland.

The Review should also consider any relevant findings and recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

In conducting the Review, consideration must be given to any impost on front line staff who are responding to the current bushfire season.

I am advised the Review report will be based on relevant Shared Responsibilities of the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland.

The report will be provided by 31 March 2021 to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.

Before finalising the report, the Office will consult with relevant entities on the draft report, including observations, insights, findings and recommendations.

As such, I expect the Review to thoroughly examine the actions taken by all agencies with respect to the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfires. The review will be completed by 31 March 2021.

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QUESTION 15

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-157 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Departmental Overview of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), and the reference to helping communities prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impact of fire and emergency events, will the Minister please inform the committee of the role of the Large Aircraft Tanker (the LAT) in responding to the Fraser Island bushfire?

ANSWER:

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is committed to helping communities in preparation, prevention, response and recovery for fire and emergency incidents, and one method of doing so is utilising aerial assets as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Aircraft play a large part in supporting emergency incidents ranging from bushfire to flood and severe weather. Aerial appliances are used as part of a suite of response capabilities required to manage fires. It is important to note that aerial appliances alone cannot put out fires.

I am advised this is the first fire season that QFES has a dedicated Large Air Tanker (LAT) to boost its aerial response capability.

QFES has advised the LAT is a strategic asset equipped to deliver 10,000 litres of fire retardant or firefighting gel to reinforce fire break activities and protect structural or economic assets during bushfire response. Further, QFES has advised the operational response of this aircraft is in support of reinforcing the establishment of containment lines through water additives such as retardant or gel. QFES has advised that this is traditionally how LATs are used across Australia.

QFES has advised that the LAT is not intended to replace the current aircraft fleet response capability and that it supports ground crew efforts from a strategic standpoint by reinforcing fire breaks. I am advised that, in conjunction with fixed wing bombing aircraft, the LAT has been supporting ground crew efforts in establishing containment lines at the current K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfires.

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QUESTION 16

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-157 of the Service Delivery Statement where it makes reference to delivering services in line with the key focus areas of the Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan by continuing to provide fire and emergency services to Queensland communities with a focus on risk and demand: will the Minister please outline to the committee the benefits of the additional 357 firefighters over five years and other measures to help meet these guiding principles and objectives?

ANSWER:

The primary driver for the additional 357 firefighters being delivered by the Palaszczuk Government is safety.

In order to determine where these additional positions are required, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) analyses the local demand and community risk profiles, current resourcing, response times, types of hazards and population growth.

QFES is undertaking a staged approach to place the 357 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) firefighters, addressing the station crewing uplift as a priority to ease workforce pressures, with a longer-term approach to station enhancements and resourcing across the five years.

The additional positions will provide a combination of enhancement to existing locations, new stations as well as an uplift of the current shift crewing standard from 19 to 23 for a 24/7 station.

The traditional allocation of 19 firefighters has not been reviewed for a number of years and further, it did not take into account the demands of modern professional firefighting or the range of leave entitlements now available to staff.

This additional resourcing is intended to give greater rostering flexibility as well as better balancing of leave and staff planning.

The increased staffing will also assist with specialist operational roles that are not currently resourced including recruit firefighter instructors and live fire trainers at the QFES' School of Fire and Emergency Services Training. At present, this training is largely delivered by seconded officers.

Several stations will also benefit from enhanced arrangements to meet increasing demand, which will in turn provide improved service delivery at these locations.

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QUESTION 17

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-171 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Department Overview of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), which notes the QPS contribution to Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan by safeguarding the health and safety of Queensland, will the Minister please provide details to the committee on the efforts of QPS during this year's COVID-19 health pandemic?

ANSWER:

Throughout the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has provided ongoing support to the whole-of-government coordinated response to the pandemic with Queensland Health as lead agency. The role of the QPS has focused on educating the community and ensuring compliance with the public health measures introduced to respond to and contain the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland, and taking enforcement action as appropriate.

The State Police Operations Centre was activated in early February 2020 to support the planning and coordination of key QPS activities in response to COVID-19. These activities have so far included:

- State border controls;
- Developing and implementing a border pass system to facilitate entry into Queensland;
- Restricting access to vulnerable communities;
- Community compliance functions including compliance visitations for individuals and businesses;
- Issuing quarantine directions and investigating any breaches in relation to these directions;
- Security overlays at quarantine accommodation;
- Supporting the activities undertaken within the Queensland Disaster Management Framework; and
- Rapid response planning and coordination to contain outbreaks of COVID-19 within Queensland.

With the prolonged declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency in Queensland, QPS established a dedicated COVID-19 Command to ensure a sustained and effective response to COVID-19 over an extended period.

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QUESTION 18

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-172 of the Service Delivery Statement and the 2020-21 service area highlights that make reference to developing pioneering research and innovative prevention strategies to divert people from serious and organised crime, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, to reduce crime and victims of crime, will the Minister please outline to the committee the achievements in this area from March 2015 under this Government's serious and organised crime legislation?

ANSWER:

This government is responsible for Serious and Organised Crime legislation that targets organised crime in all its forms. The legislation is the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive anti-organised crime legislation in the nation. The legislation protects Queenslanders by providing police and the courts with powers to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks, including organised crime gangs, child exploitation networks and major fraud syndicates.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that its Crime and Intelligence Command works in partnership with national and international agencies targeting serious and organised crime. Within the Command, the Organised Crime Gangs Group (which includes Taskforce Maxima) works collaboratively with the national Taskforce Morpheus to provide a coordinated national approach to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs).

I am advised that since the inception of the Serious and Organised Crime legislation to 30 November 2020, 161 full patched OMCG members have formally disaffiliated from OMCGs. In addition, 12 people have been charged for the offence of habitually consorting under the *Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld)*.

I am advised that since the inception of the Serious and Organised Crime legislation to 30 September 2020, 2,640 OMCG participants were charged with 13,099 offences.

While not an exhaustive list, the below highlights some of the outstanding work of the QPS in targeting serious and organised crime.

Habitual Consorting

The Organised Crime Gangs Group (which includes Taskforce Maxima) has an established consorting team proactively using the Serious and Organised Crime legislation to disrupt criminal networks. Since the inception of the Serious and Organised Crime legislation to 30 November 2020, 1711 official Consorting Warnings

have been issued. 12 persons have been charged for the offence of habitually consorting under the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Qld).

The QPS advises that the consorting regime is having a significant effect on disrupting the activities of criminal organisations.

Restricted Premises

The restricted premises legislation has been effective in denying OMCG the ability to establish clubhouses. Police advise there are no OMCG clubhouses operating in Queensland.

The QPS advises that it will continue to utilise all lawful measures to disrupt the activities of criminal organisations in Queensland. The QPS maintains a committee to coordinate the oversight of the emergence of potential restricted premises.

Child Exploitation

Investigative teams in Taskforce Argos and Taskforce Orion not only lead the nation, but they are of international renown.

These teams hunt down predators and contribute to the rescue of hundreds of children around Australia and the world.

This government has invested \$2.4 million to make Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture so that it can continue to save more children from the clutches of the dark net.

Over the last four years, Taskforce Argos officers, through Operation Quiet, have arrested 169 offenders on 603 charges.

In that time, Queensland police who work in this area have helped rescue 767 children nationally and worldwide through investigation and analysis of seized data from over 144 million media files.

Financial and Cyber Crime Group

The QPS has advised that the Financial and Cyber Crime Group is central to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) response to reported financial and cybercrime. The group provides support to QPS members to keep the community safe and in preventing victimisation.

I am advised that the Investigative Accountants Unit (IAU) is responsible for the delivery of financial analysis services to all investigations statewide, including investigations associated with money laundering, drug trafficking, major fraud, unexplained wealth/proceeds of crime, gangs, and serious and organised crime.

During the 2019-20 financial year the Investigative Accountants Unit completed 29 full financial investigations with a value of \$28.5 million and 25 preliminary profiles. Subsequently, between 1 July 2020 and 31 October 2020, the Investigative Accountants Unit completed a further 12 full financial investigations, with a total value of \$15.9 million.

Further, the Cold Call Investment Fraud Group continues to work in partnership with national and state/territory law enforcement and regulatory agencies to investigate cold call investment fraud syndicates.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2020, 138 charges were preferred against 25 offenders directly relating to cold call investment fraud totalling more than \$15 million.

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QUESTION 19

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-172 of the Service Delivery Statement and the 2020-21 service area highlights, particularly in relation to youth crime initiatives, such as Project Booyah, will the Minister please outline to the committee the benefits of this program and the Five Point Plan in helping to turn young lives around and keep communities safe?

ANSWER:

This This Government is committed to a youth justice system that addresses the causes of offending by young people and also ensures that young people are held responsible for their behaviour.

We are proactively addressing youth offending through early intervention and by improving outcomes for young people to prevent crime and back the cycle of reoffending.

One such strategy is the award-winning Project Booyah.

Project Booyah is the Queensland Police Service's premier frontline policing early intervention program for at-risk/disengaged youth aged between 14-17 years of age. The program addresses disengagement by young people from family, community and education, responds to offending behaviour, and demonstrates its capacity to encourage young people to pursue further vocational pathways, gain meaningful employment and/or re-engage with education.

Project Booyah is a research-based, structured, 16 week, community inclusive program incorporating resilience and, social skills training, vocational pathways, development training that is underpinned by a cognitive behavioural therapeutic model, police mentoring, youth support, functional literacy/numeracy education, employability skillsets and adventure based activities to support identified disconnected young people regain a sense of their own self-worth, build resilience and enable them to make better life choices.

The Booyah program is operating in nine sites across Queensland (Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Pine Rivers/Redcliffe, South Brisbane, Logan, Gold Coast and Ipswich and will commence a tenth site in Mackay in February next year.

This Government supports Project Booyah and has provided an additional \$4.136m over four years from 2020-21 and \$1.292m ongoing to continue the Framing the Future post program mentoring initiative and to expand Project Booyah's RESPECT program in schools.

Framing the Future is Project Booyah's post program mentoring initiative supporting 14-17 year-old at risk youth who have completed Project Booyah. As at 30 September 2020, there were 291 participants engaged with Project Booyah's Framing the Future programs.

The RESPECT in schools program is designed to be flexible in its delivery model to meet and support both the individual and stakeholder needs. Project Booyah's RESPECT program supports the Queensland Education Department's "Positive Behaviour for Learning" and the three-tiered approach to student support. Between January 2020 and November 2020, 147 youth have commenced the RESPECT program and 118 have completed and continued in formal education or training.

In 2016-17, this Government provided \$7.4m over five years and ongoing funding of \$1.9m per annum to continue Project Booyah across Queensland.

A further \$1.76m was committed in 2018-19 over three years to continue funding the Framing the Future initiative as part of Project Booyah.

And, as stated above, this Government provided an additional \$4.136m over four years from 2020-21 and \$1.292m ongoing to continue Framing the Future and to expand Project Booyah's RESPECT program in schools. The Government's support included employing five additional PCYC civilian staff to manage the RESPECT program and to train and support all school based police personnel in the delivery of RESPECT in schools.

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QUESTION 20

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-165 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Departmental Overview for the independent Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM), which makes reference to reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of emergency management plans and arrangements in Queensland, will the Minister please provide the committee with an overview of the work undertaken and planned by IGEM to keep Queenslanders safe?

ANSWER:

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM), provides assurance and advice to ensure that the best possible disaster management arrangements are in place to protect and benefit all Queenslanders.

IGEM's functions are prescribed in section 16C of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the DM Act). The DM Act outlines specific obligations of local governments, disaster districts and IGEM in reviewing the effectiveness of disaster management plans.

IGEM provides assurance through working collaboratively with stakeholders across the disaster management sector to undertake assurance activities. These assurance activities include self-assessments conducted by local and district groups of their plans, a further disaster management plan assessment process undertaken by IGEM, and independent and post-event reviews.

The disaster management plan assessment process was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders from local government, disaster districts, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Police Service. The process supported local and district disaster management groups to meet their responsibilities under the DM Act.

The assessment process identified that changes had been made to plans by Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) since the 2019–20 assessment, and that key drivers for change included the annual disaster management plan assessment process and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good practice was identified by IGEM during the detailed assessment of a targeted selection of LDMG and DDMG plans. These examples have been shared with the sector to support continuous improvement in disaster management practice.

IGEM's strategic direction and program of work for 2020–21 are aligned to key aspects of the *Queensland State Disaster Management Plan*.

IGEM operates as a review mechanism post-disaster event such as bushfire, cyclone and flood.

In 2020–21, IGEM will continue to undertake reviews, conduct assurance activities, and work collaboratively with key partners to build capable, adaptable and resilient communities.

In 2020–21, key IGEM activities will include:

- undertaking a review to assess the effectiveness of preparedness activities and the response to the bushfire events on K'gari (Fraser Island)
- monitoring and evaluation of the progress of IGEM review recommendations
- continuing to connect researchers with practitioners to ensure evidence-based research informs and shapes Queensland's disaster management preparedness and response
- promoting continuous improvement and the sharing of lessons across the disaster management sector
- supporting stakeholder engagement activities that create new and innovative partnerships.