



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 11 December 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (9.54 a.m.), by leave: The Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is one of two correctional centres in Queensland that is privately operated. It is the only remand centre in south-east Queensland for male prisoners. The management contract for the centre is due to expire next year. I wish to inform the House that a process to let a new five-year contract for the management and operation of the centre has been established. The objectives of the tender process are to select the most appropriate, qualified, innovative and cost-effective service provider for the future management and operation of the centre and to form a contract with a service provider that promotes the highest level of accountability, performance measurement and innovation.

The Beattie Labor government's policy is to ensure that prisons remain publicly owned with a limited number of privately operated prisons. This tender process is entirely consistent with this policy. I might say that our policy contrasts with the approach of the National Party when it was last in power. It wanted to increase the number of privately run prisons and had plans to sell infrastructure off to private concerns. If it had achieved this, then control of the corrective services system would have been forever taken out of the hands of government.

When open and competitive tender processes such as this are established, existing staff naturally become nervous about their future. I want to assure the current permanent staff working at Arthur Gorrie that the new contract will guarantee their employment, except for the senior management team. All accrued leave and entitlements such as sick leave, long service leave and annual leave will be preserved if the operator happens to change. To ensure the best possible outcomes, the tender process will be overseen by two committees responsible for steering the project and evaluating the tenders. These committees will comprise senior officers from State Purchasing, Queensland Treasury and the Department of Corrective Services. Given the nature of this tender, a probity auditor, KPMG, has been appointed.

Expressions of interest for the tender were advertised on 27 October this year and closed on 16 November. The next stage will be that a selection of suitable organisations from the expressions of interest round will be invited to tender. It is anticipated that invitations to tender will be released early next year and the evaluations completed in the middle of next year. It is also anticipated that operations under the new contract will commence by the end of next year.

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