




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): In the interests of safety and job security, it has been decided that the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre will be recommissioned in stages. Borallon is over 25 years old, with a number of older designed cells that do not meet current safety standards. After an independent suicide-risk audit, the government has decided to recommission cells at the centre in stages. This is important for young offenders who will spend time at Borallon. For them it will be a tough new earn-and-learn training facility aimed at turning their young lives around.

Next month, Borallon will take 95 prisoners. That means new and permanent jobs for prison staff. More than 100 staff will start work in April, with permanent jobs to come on line thereafter. We will see a gradual commissioning of 153 secure cells of the older design. These cells will be modified to meet the latest safety standards. The first secure unit is expected to be opened in May to take more prisoners and employ more staff. I am advised that cell modernisation work will be completed by July, at which time the centre will accommodate a total of 248 prisoners and 162 staff. The remaining section, which has the oldest prison cells of its kind in Queensland, will be on hold until it is feasible to undertake further capital works. Importantly, jobs will be safe. Those staff who have permanent jobs will keep them. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to jobs and job security.

When it reopens next month, Borallon will be Queensland's first dedicated training prison, with a focus on education, training and employment outcomes. Young prisoners will be either earning or learning. It is about helping young men get the support and skills they need to keep them on the straight and narrow. It is also about keeping Queenslanders safe, and there are few things more important than that.