



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Capricornia Correctional Centre

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.06 pm): I had the pleasure of representing the Hon. Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, earlier this month at the graduation ceremony of 11 graduate custodial officers who will be employed at the Capricornia Correctional Centre. The officers proudly accepted their oath to keep the community safe through the humane containment and rehabilitation of prisoners.

Community safety is important to me and I thank all officers, including the graduates, for their commitment to boosting the safety and security of the centre and the community. I am incredibly proud of the dedication of our corrective services officers. They are the front line of public safety in the community and critical in reducing offending. It is wonderful to think that our community is safer now and in the future with all of our officers working together to improve the behaviour and attitudes of prisoners in custody.

The \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre is well under way. Local businesses and their employees have completed nearly 90 per cent of the construction work so far. To date, approximately 215,000 hours have been undertaken on the project, with more than 179,000 hours completed by local workers. The expansion has already had a positive impact on the local community and it is great to see the dollars being reinvested in our community. The project is expected to deliver about 172 jobs during construction. The total value of the works already tendered is approximately \$138 million, with \$61 million of that allocated to local industry. This is a significant boost to the region, with about 44 per cent of the value of the work going to local contractors. I am also pleased to hear that the foundations have been poured and the blockwork has commenced on some of the buildings.

The opportunities will continue once the project is completed, with more than 130 new full-time custodial officers to be employed locally. There will also be the flow-on opportunities for local businesses to help with keeping the centre running by providing necessary services. The expansion is a jobs winner for Central Queensland.