




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Regional Infrastructure and Jobs

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is continuing its job-creation program for regional Queensland. Our budget sends a strong signal that jobs are at the heart of our government's decision-making. Jobs transform regional economies and communities and a job transforms an individual's life.

In addition to providing a record Police budget this year, our government is delivering massive investment injections to two important regions. Firstly, in the Lockyer Valley the funding is locked and loaded. We are going to deliver stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton. This will involve building a brand-new stand-alone facility at that precinct. This investment will deliver 445 construction jobs over the three-year build. Even better, there will be more than 500 permanent, ongoing jobs created when construction is completed and the facility is commissioned in 2022-23.

Five hundred new permanent jobs in the Lockyer Valley is transformational. On Tuesday I spoke to the mayor of Lockyer Valley. She was very, very excited about the announcement and knows what it means for that entire region: hundreds of extra workers and their families living and working in the region. That will create an enormous opportunity for local businesses to provide the goods and services all those extra people need. It is about investing in regional jobs today and the future, it is about supporting regional Queensland businesses and it is about delivering regional infrastructure and services for our growing state.

The benefits do not end there. The stage 2 correctional facility will deliver over 1,000 beds for male prisoners by 2023. This will help address overcrowding across the correctional system. The planning has already commenced for this prison to be a modern, evidence based correctional facility that will provide enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and there will be a focus on addressing the ice epidemic and its link to violence and property crime. This new facility will improve the safety of correctional officers and prisoners by delivering safer, less crowded, more effective prisons. This will help reduce recidivism and keep our communities safer.

The \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre is also delivering a big jobs bonus for that region. It was originally estimated that the expansion would support 130 new ongoing permanent jobs, but I can now confirm the expansion will actually deliver 232 new ongoing permanent jobs, which is great news for the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton.

Queensland is witnessing a once-in-a-generation change that will create jobs, create a safer working environment for correctional staff and officers, greatly ease pressure on the prison system's capacity and provide a significant permanent boost to regional economies. When it comes to jobs, our government delivers.