




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correctional Centres

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): The vast majority of Queenslanders will never set foot inside a prison—and that is a good thing. There is one important thing about our correctional centre network everyone should know. Our prisons are powering regional economies right across the state. Two weeks ago I visited the Capricornia Correctional Centre at Rockhampton. It is undergoing a \$241 million expansion. Everywhere I looked there were cranes and tradies going about their work. Rockhampton businesses are benefiting big time.

It is not just the construction jobs and the economic stimulus for local suppliers that is making a difference. I was also in Rockhampton to help kick along a recruitment drive by Queensland Corrective Services. This financial year Queensland Corrective Services is looking to employ hundreds of new staff. This means more jobs, more careers and more opportunities for Queenslanders. With correctional centres based in Atherton, Townsville, Rockhampton, Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley, the Scenic Rim and the Gold Coast hinterland, all areas of the state will benefit.

Here is a snapshot. Across Queensland, Queensland Corrective Services generates significant economic benefits for local communities by investing in important infrastructure projects. Queensland Corrective Services employs more than 5,000 staff and operates 11 high-security and six low-security prisons and 13 work camps across the state. It continues to be an economic powerhouse for regional Queensland with not only the \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre but also the planned \$618 million construction of stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct in the Lockyer Valley, which is to be completed in 2023.

Queensland Corrective Services supports local jobs and businesses by using local, regional and statewide contracted suppliers for the provision of food services and other services in correctional centres. In 2019-20 external services investment is estimated at \$91 million. This supports the Queensland economy. Queensland Corrective Services not only makes Queensland a safer place; it also makes Queensland a more prosperous place.