



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Police Resources; Correctional Facilities**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): In recent weeks our approved police strength passed the 12,000 mark for the first time ever. That is a record number of police in Queensland. It is our government that is backing community safety and backing our police with a record budget. In fact, this year we will see an extra 195 police officers in place. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that that increase in our police numbers is very much on track. In fact, we have two more police graduations this month and I have good news: there are more police on the way. This comes at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever before.

Queensland Corrective Services is also supporting local economies by delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. They are on a recruitment drive. There are 700 jobs up for grabs in locations right across Queensland, especially in the regions. This government—our government—is creating good-quality jobs with exciting career paths in regional centres right across our state. We have correctional centres in Maryborough, Rockhampton, Mareeba and Townsville providing jobs for communities in those regions. Hundreds of jobs are being created thanks to our major prison capital works projects, too.

The \$241 million expansion of our Capricornia Correctional Centre is on track. The first operational cellblocks from that expansion are set to come online this year. I am advised that more than 230 full-time permanent jobs will be required to support the project when it is complete. Our investment in Capricornia not only creates jobs in construction and jobs in the prison; it also provides a major boost to small and medium sized businesses in the region.

We are also getting on with the job of building a new prison at Gatton that will support 430 construction jobs in that community and, when operational, will deliver up to 1,000 permanent jobs. Employment in the region will be boosted even further when we transition Southern Queensland and Arthur Gorrie prisons to public control. Thanks to that change there will be more jobs at those locations and the associated economic benefits. That shows the importance of our government's focus, which is about supporting the economy, creating jobs and keeping Queenslanders safe and healthy.