




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Capricornia Correctional Centre; Southern Queensland Correctional Centre

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.59 am): We face twin challenges: there is a health emergency and there is a formidable economic challenge. The Palaszczuk government has a steely focus on and a plan for dealing with both issues. Our plan to support jobs and communities right across the state is well known.

Last week, I officially opened the new secure units at Capricornia Correctional Centre, increasing capacity by 100 cells. When completed, the entire Capricornia expansion project will increase capacity by 348 cells and almost 400 beds. At a cost of \$241 million, that project is creating local jobs and providing the local community with an economic boost at this critical time.

We are also building a major piece of infrastructure in the Lockyer Valley that will generate hundreds of jobs during construction. Once complete, that project will create hundreds of permanent full-time jobs. Today I am pleased to announce that the successful tenderer for the construction of Southern Queensland Correctional Centre stage 2 is experienced correctional centre builder John Holland. This \$653 million excluding GST piece of infrastructure will be a game changer for the Lockyer Valley. Construction of the 1,000-bed prison facility will generate hundreds of jobs. I am advised that the construction phase will commence this year and will support an average of 400 jobs per year, but at peak construction times the number will rise to 900 jobs. Once complete, the facility will require at least 500 full-time permanent staff.

This is a major project and it is win, win, win for the local community and for Queensland. The project supports jobs as we rebuild the economy through the recovery from COVID-19. It greatly enhances the capacity of our corrections network and enhances officer safety and community safety. As I said, it will be an economic game changer for the Lockyer Valley. I know that the mayor of the Lockyer Valley, Tanya Milligan, is tremendously excited about the flow-on effects from this project. I thank Tanya for her support. I know that the local member, the member for Lockyer, is also a strong supporter. I thank Jim for his support too.

This is about Building Queensland's future. It is all about Queensland's plan to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic. Quite frankly, this \$650 million investment in infrastructure and jobs could not come at a better time.