



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Emergency Services Personnel**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.38 am): Community safety, the health of Queenslanders and the Queensland economic health all go hand in hand. That is why the role of our frontline emergency workers has been so critical—critical on our road borders, critical in our airports, critical in our quarantine hotels. All of those on the front line are helping to keep the virus out of Queensland and helping to keep our economy open and active. When we look across our borders, we see what happens when the health response lapses—crippling, long-running lockdowns that shut down state economies. With the hard work of Queenslanders and the commitment of Queenslanders, that is not happening here.

Our corrections staff have also done a magnificent job keeping the virus out of our prisons. All of these efforts aimed at keeping the community safe are protecting our economy, and those efforts are supporting Queensland's plan for economic recovery. That economic recovery plan includes very significant strategic investments by the government in infrastructure for emergency service and frontline workers. Those investments are also supporting those frontline staff with the job of keeping our community safe. That is an equation which produces a win-win for Queensland.

For instance, in the Lockyer Valley near Gatton the state's second largest infrastructure project is underway, with construction of the \$650 million stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre precinct. This investment will deliver over 1,000 beds. Importantly, it will support hundreds and hundreds of jobs during construction and 500 permanent jobs once complete. It is a game changer for the Lockyer Valley and will deliver massive economic benefits for decades to come.

Then there is the police portfolio. The biggest investment in policing in over 30 years will deliver more than 2,000 extra police personnel and a \$300 million five-year infrastructure construction pipeline to deliver new and upgraded police facilities right across the state, supporting hundreds of tradie jobs in communities across Queensland. Similarly, the government is making significant investments in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by investing in an extra 357 firefighters. That is more jobs for Queenslanders and more community safety for our state.

Queenslanders are extremely grateful for the efforts of our frontline emergency workers. They have helped keep the virus out. They have helped keep the community safe. They have helped protect the Queensland economy. The government is supporting them by investing in the front line to further support Queensland's plan for economic recovery.