




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.07 am): On this side of the House we like to talk about good jobs, because good jobs support better services and Queensland's great lifestyle. Today I would like to detail one particular project in my portfolio area which is all about delivering good jobs and better services—that is, stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton. Mr Speaker, you should not just take my word for what a great project this is. Let's have a listen to what Lockyer Valley Mayor Tanya Milligan has had to say. She said—

Large scale projects such as this have the potential to generate positive and tangible financial impacts for our region through job creation and business opportunity ...

The city convenience and country living of the Lockyer Valley is becoming increasingly attractive as people continue to seek that sought-after work-life balance ...

There you have it—jobs and lifestyle, supported by our government. This \$861 million expansion project will see a 500-bed increase approved by the Palaszczuk government, on top of the more than 1,000 beds initially scoped for stage 2 of the correctional precinct. The expansion project will result in more than 1,500 beds for male prisoners in the purpose-built facility. It will deliver on the jobs front as well. It is expected to create more than 900 construction jobs in the region at its peak and approximately 600 ongoing permanent operational jobs.

The project is on track, with early works well progressed on the site. Major construction works are expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with commissioning in the first half of 2024, weather permitting. As at the end of June 2022, there have been a total of more than 900 workers inducted onto the project site and almost 500,000 worked hours conducted since site works commenced.

This is a classic example of government at work—a government that appreciates that jobs in the regions are good for all Queenslanders, a government that realises that better services help ensure a more prosperous community and a better lifestyle. This project guarantees not only direct jobs but also indirect jobs for trades, hospitality, producers and more. Last but by no means least, stage 2 of the correctional precinct will mean greater security for our correctional facilities across the state, for both staff and prisoners, with the addition of extra beds and state-of-the-art technology. It is good for Queensland.