

Question on Notice
No. 828
Asked on 18 August 2004

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (Ms Spence)-

QUESTION:

What has the Government done to ensure prisons are more secure than six years ago?

ANSWER:

This government is committed to ensuring that the perimeter security of all the State's correction facilities is state-of-the-art.

The quality of our prison perimeter security has resulted in the lowest rate of escapes from all centres in more than 20 years.

There are a number of achievements of the Beattie Government that have resulted in the safest and most secure prisons in Queensland history.

- The most significant achievements include:
 - The opening of the \$90 million state-of-the-art prison in Maryborough in 2003;
 - The \$89.5 million replacement of the Rockhampton prison; and
 - The \$68.8 million expansion of the Woodford Correctional Centre in 2001.

The Government's commitment to ensuring that the most up-to-date and effective security provisions are in place will be further demonstrated by an extra \$10 million this financial year to further strengthen Queensland prison security.

There will be state-of-the-art security upgrades in addition to nine new perimeter patrol vehicles – to replace the decommissioned Hummers - and enhanced surveillance systems to detect and prevent unauthorised material entering correctional facilities.

The latest measures to manage high-risk prisoners build on the \$475 million six-year capital works renewal and development program, which was completed as a result of the 2003-04 Budget.

This year's \$10 million capital funding to enhance security and safety, includes \$6 million for perimeter security upgrades. The other \$4 million is to protect security systems and ensure staff safety through: \$1.8 million for lightning surge protection to which will minimise failure and down time to security systems; \$1.5 million to upgrade the officer stations at Woodford Correctional Centre; and \$700,000 for a new intercom system at Borallon Correctional Centre.

The capital funding boost for security in the 2004-05 Budget demonstrates the Beattie Government's commitment to continue enhancing community and staff safety.