

Question on Notice
No. 1354
Asked on Wednesday 1 November 2006

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

- (1) Is the Warwick Shire being seriously considered as a potential site for the Government's proposed 4000 bed mega prison?
- (2) What is the timeframe for the start and completion of this prison wherever it is located?
- (3) Will she immediately rule out the Warwick Shire as a potential site to address community concern?

ANSWER:

- I have announced that a preferred site for the location of a new correctional precinct is in the Gatton Shire. The council has expressed in principle support for it.
- Following a call for expressions of interest in the proposal, Queensland Corrective Services gave presentations to councils that requested further information about the proposed new jail, including Warwick, Caloundra, Kilcoy and Gatton.
- As one of the four local authorities in south-east Queensland that indicated an interest in hosting a new correctional precinct, Warwick Shire Council's interest was seriously considered.
- Stage one of the project will include a 300 bed women's correctional centre and a 500 bed men's correctional centre. It is estimated that the trade value to the local economy over the life of the project will be more than \$375 million. This first phase is projected for completion in 2010.
- Warwick Shire is not being considered further at this time given my announcement of Gatton as the preferred location.