

Question on Notice
No. 1371
Asked on Wednesday 1 November 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to planning being undertaken by the Department of Corrective Services for the establishment of a new correctional facility in the Gatton area—

- (1) What is the current stage of planning for the project?
- (2) Who are the stakeholders being consulted in relation to the project?
- (3) Will she guarantee that the Gatton community will be fully engaged in the consultation process?

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.
- Queensland Corrective Services has been looking for a 600 hectare site to co locate a series of correctional centres. 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.
- A comprehensive community engagement strategy has been developed to ensure all members of the Gatton community can ask questions and express their concerns. The strategy includes:
 - **Internet Site** - A discrete site has been developed. This site will include fact sheets that address issues such as career opportunities, project description and frequently asked questions.
 - **1800 Number** - The number (1800 663 768) has been established and will be staffed by senior Departmental Officers who can provide accurate and timely information to Gatton residents.
 - **Shop Front** - The shop front will open on Thursday 30 November 2006 and will operate between the hours of 10am and 3pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturdays. Three departmental officers will staff the shop-front. It will operate in December and January and will be extended in response to public demand. The shop front will include the following communication media:
 - Career information
 - Interactive Internet site
 - Virtual tour of a correctional facility
 - Posters
 - Fact Sheets
 - Brochures and Pamphlets

- **Presentations to Local Community Groups** - A list of proposed groups has been provided by the council. Presentations will be made to these groups at mutually convenient times by senior officers of Queensland Corrective Services.
- **Radio Sessions** – QCS will engage local radio to provide regular interviews and updates on the project.
- **Local Press** - An advertisement for the public meeting, 1800 number and shop front will be included in the Gatton Star on Wednesday 6 December 2006. Regular weekly columns are planned for the Gatton Star and other local newspapers. Additionally radio spots are planned and a regular column and advertisements as required will be placed in the local media.
- **Mail Out** - A letter from QCS to Gatton residents advising them of the proposed precinct, background information and details of the public meeting will be sent in in the coming week.