

Question on Notice
No. 1930
Asked on Thursday 15 November 2007

MRS SMITH asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport
(MS SPENCE) –

QUESTION:

Will she outline the current progress of the Skilled Park project and when the facility will be open for business?

ANSWER:

The construction of the \$160 million Skilled Park continues on time and is within budget.

The installation of 11,500 square metres of washed Grand Prix couch turf was recently completed giving the field of play more than three months to bed down before the first Titans game against the West Tigers is played at the Stadium on March 1.

The capacity of the Stadium has been increased to accommodate an additional 2,000 people, as a result of additional space for seats being located during the construction process. There will now be around 27,000 seats inside the Stadium – with around 90% of all seats already in place.

The additional seats are being installed within the original budget due to cost savings achieved throughout the construction process. These cost savings also resulted in the fit-out of a second function room – and the benefits for fans and players on the field will be great.

All around the Stadium, construction and development is being finalised – with the final pieces of roofing fabric being fitted in place and the suites and boxes in the western stand nearing completion.

The Government is contributing \$570,000 (consisting of a \$440,000 grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation with the remaining \$130,000 from the \$160 million Stadium budget) towards the construction of a pedestrian link boardwalk along the southern edge of Mudgeeraba Creek.

This pedestrian link is great news for the Gold Coast and will provide easy access for fans between the Stadium and parkland on the western side of the rail line.

Skilled Park will be a venue all Queenslanders can be proud of. It will be the home of rugby league on the Gold Coast, as well as a venue for many other special events in sport and entertainment.

It will also boost the Queensland economy, when fans come for the game and stay for a holiday - this means jobs and a business bonanza in accommodation, business services, transport, retail and trade sectors.