

Question on Notice
No. 620
Asked on Wednesday 18 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre and its temporary closure since last year to allow for major works and refurbishment—

Will she provide an update on the progress of this project?

ANSWER:

- The Sir David Longland Correctional Centre was closed in December 2005 for upgrading and expansion to become the reception centre for south-east Queensland.
- Since that time work has progressed on time and within budget to redevelop this centre which will reopen as the Brisbane Correctional Centre in late 2007.
- Areas within the centre, included the old B Block (notorious for housing some of the state's worst offenders), have been demolished to make way for not only new cells but also those areas required to ensure an effective and efficient reception process.
- Six units housing 84 prisoners have made way for six units housing 300 prisoners enabling this centre to deliver cost effective correctional services.
- Roofs have been installed on the bulk of these units already and the internal fit out is in progress and on schedule.
- This redevelopment will be the first time that rain water harvesting has been incorporated into the design of a correctional centre in Queensland with the incorporation of eight 22 000 litre tanks under one of the new cell blocks. These will supply irrigation water to the sports field through an automatic watering system that is controlled by moisture sensors built into the oval area.
- Existing cell blocks that will remain on site are being refurbished to enhance security and reduce hang points internally.
- Work in the refurbishment of the remaining existing cell blocks is well advanced with the majority of the actual cell refurbishment works completed.
- All existing and new cells have been equipped with water saving showers and tap fittings and dual flush toilets to comply with the requirements of level four and level five water restrictions.

- As part of the project's contribution to training for the future there are currently over 50 apprentices working on and off site to complete the works.
- Other refurbishment works on site including the introduction of a central kitchen and additional new programs and staff areas are also well advanced at this time.
- The refurbished centre will also provide for video conferencing with the court system to reduce the need for prisoners to attend court in many instances and this will again reduce opportunity for escapes.
- In terms of preparation for operation, the new General Manager has been appointed since January this year and he is currently building his commissioning team up to strength for occupation of the centre in November this year.
- The centre will be fully able to accept prisoners from 1 December 2007.
- This refurbishment program will deliver an additional 216 cells taking the total cell capacity to 540 and provide the state with a best practice facility.
- The new Brisbane Correctional Centre is on time and within budget to deliver as promised.