

**Question On Notice
No. 1
Asked on 4 February 2020**

MR J MADDEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the new South East Queensland Correctional Centre at Gatton that is designed to take male prisoners— Will the Minister (a) advise as to the construction timetable and (b) outline the facilities and features?

ANSWER:

Construction of the new South East Queensland Correctional Centre Stage 2 at Gatton is planned for completion in 2023. The new \$618.863m facility will deliver a massive economic boost to the Lockyer Valley, creating hundreds of jobs and delivering significant financial benefits to local businesses.

It will be the first new prison built in Queensland since Southern Queensland Correctional Centre Stage 1 was opened in 2012 and is a part of the government's significant investment in criminal justice system reform.

The project is expected to create more than 400 construction jobs over the three-year build and eventually deliver more than 500 permanent jobs as well as ongoing opportunities for local businesses to supply goods and services.

Planning has commenced for a modern, evidence-based prison employing a health and rehabilitation focused operating model delivering proven and effective interventions as part of the end-to-end case management of prisoners.

In line with the Queensland Productivity Commission's recommendations, the final design will consider available evidence on the effect of infrastructure on rehabilitation,

The new facility is expected to deliver approximately 1000 beds, helping to address overcrowding. Less crowded prisons are safer for correctional officers and prisoners. and provide a more effective setting for delivering programs to reduce recidivism.

Prisoners will have access to behavioural change programs, enhanced mental health services, drug desistance, education opportunities, and rehabilitation programs; with a focus on addressing the ice epidemic and its link to violent and property crime.

The centre will be supported by a mix of custodial and other professionally qualified staff trained in addressing the social, psychological and behavioural dimensions of problematic substance use and other key precursors of offending.

The centre's through-care approach will leverage non-government and government services including health, housing, employment and familial support systems within the community, to address recidivism and deliver better post-prison outcomes.