

Question on Notice
No. 634
Asked on 25 May 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the government is maximising the opportunity for local businesses to benefit from Stage 2 at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre?

ANSWER:

This Government's 2021-22 budget includes further investments in Queensland's second biggest infrastructure project, Stage Two of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct (Stage 2 SQCP). I can advise that \$320 million will be invested in the 2021-22 financial year in the expanded 1,000-plus bed Correctional Centre and with construction underway, this project is already delivering an economic boost to the region's economy by supporting the jobs of hundreds of tradies and a large number of local businesses.

The new facility near Gatton is one of the most significant projects in terms of financial commitment and resourcing in the history of Queensland Corrective Services (QCS). The project is expected to create more than 400 jobs per annum during construction, rising to over 900 at peak times, and eventually deliver more than 500 permanent jobs as well as ongoing opportunities for local Lockyer Valley and Somerset businesses to supply goods and services.

This project is investing in regional jobs today and for the future, supporting existing Queensland regional businesses and growing the local economy.

The project is running industry briefing sessions for local businesses on how they can engage with the project. The latest session in May 2021 was held at the Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre in Gatton with approximately 120 people in attendance.

The Queensland Government is dedicated to using its buying power to make a positive difference to the local businesses and workforce in the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions. The project has already procured Browns Office Suppliers, Unique Kitchens, E&E Waste, Kennards Hire and Bowes Electrical. All are local suppliers from Toowoomba and Gatton. A further 15 suppliers from the region have also been procured.