Question on Notice No. 877 Asked on 18 June 2021

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Capricornia Correctional Centre Upgrade, due for completion in 2020—

Will the Minister advise (a) the completion date of the additional cells, (b) how many additional cells were provided as part of the upgrade, (c) how many of the additional cells are currently occupied by prisoners and (d) the current facility utilisation of the Capricornia Correctional Centre?

ANSWER:

Under the Palaszczuk Labor Government, more than 4500 additional beds across the Queensland prison system will be delivered by the end of 2023.

When the initial scope for the \$200 million Capricornia Correctional Centre Expansion Project was expanded in 2018-19 by an additional \$41 million for the construction of additional beds and other facilities, the construction timeline for the entire Expansion Project was extended to the end of 2021.

Notwithstanding the potential impact of COVID-19 restrictions on construction timelines and prison operations, I am advised that the Expansion Project remains on-time and on-budget.

Importantly, as part of the Expansion Project, QCS is also undertaking a refurbishment of the existing cells at the Centre to ensure they remain fit for purpose and to extend the life of that infrastructure. I am advised that these works are currently underway and, accordingly, prisoners are currently occupying the new cells associated with the Expansion Project.

I am advised that the entire Expansion Project (including the refurbishment of the existing cells) will be completed this year and will deliver an extra 348 cells.

I am further advised that the current facility utilisation at the centre is 127% and that all cells associated with the expansion project will be available for occupation by prisoners this month.