

OpenVoiceNews Australia

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Queensland Unveils Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

July 25, 2025

— Categories: Politics & Government



Queensland's largest correctional facility, the **Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre (LVCC)**, began operations in **July 2025**, introducing a 1,536-bed high-security men's prison near Gatton. The facility reflects a new rehabilitative approach in prison design and programming, though criticism persists over the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) broader management of the state's corrections system.

Operated by Queensland Corrective Services, LVCC replaces older, overcrowded institutions and marks a \$547 million government investment. The facility was constructed

by John Holland and forms part of the broader Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct. The complex features modern infrastructure, including natural light, open communal areas, and windows without bars to promote a safer, more rehabilitative environment.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Adam Black stated that “open spaces and rehabilitation services encourage better prisoner behaviour,” citing evidence linking such design features to lower reoffending rates. The centre delivers mental health and substance abuse programs, vocational education, and First Nations cultural support, aiming to reduce recidivism.

The prison is expected to support over 800 ongoing jobs, including custodial officers, psychologists, educators, and clinicians. Lockyer Valley Mayor Tanya Milligan welcomed the economic impact, noting community support for the project. Staff have been undergoing training across Queensland facilities in preparation for full operational capacity.

Despite these efforts, critics argue that the ALP’s focus on large-scale infrastructure does not address underlying issues such as overcrowding, officer shortages, and workplace safety. Shadow Minister for Corrective Services Tim Mander stated on 24 July 2025 that “the ALP’s shiny new prison doesn’t address overcrowding or officer safety concerns.” A 2023 Senate inquiry previously highlighted growing pressures across Queensland’s correctional network, particularly in older facilities.

The opening of the LVCC was delayed from late 2024 to mid-2025, during which new recruits were deployed to other correctional centres for operational training. The broader Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct has a projected cost of approximately \$885 million, prompting scrutiny from opposition MPs regarding value for money and long-term planning.

As Queensland implements this new model focused on rehabilitation and reintegration, the ALP government must demonstrate that investments in infrastructure are matched by improvements in staffing, security, and overall system performance.