

LOCAL NEWS

New prison hailed a boost for region

Jobs, economic benefits identified

By **CALLUM BENTLEY**

callum.bentley@thechronicle.com.au

THE official opening of a correctional facility near Gatton yesterday has been praised as a positive step for the Lockyer Valley in strengthening the region's economy and boosting job prospects for residents.

The 300-bed Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct was constructed at a cost of \$485 million, and is the most modern jail in operation in Australia.

Minister for Government Services and Building Industry Simon Finn said the project had been delivered on time and under budget.

"This project has significant

trade value for the Gatton area, with more than 3000 jobs created just through the construction period.

"Now operational, the centre will offer a broad range of career opportunities involving a range of different occupations, which means a significant boost to the local community and economy."

Corrective Services Minister Neil Roberts said Queensland had an effective and efficient correctional system and the new facility was a clear reflection of its commitment to

correctional standards and services.

"This state-of-the-art facility will provide safe and secure accommodation for 300 male prisoners in a high-security environment," Mr Roberts said.

"The nearby Borallon Correctional Centre will be temporarily decommissioned in the near future and prisoners will be transferred to the SQCC in the coming weeks.

"It is anticipated that SQCC will be close to maximum capacity by the end of January 2012."

“It is anticipated that SQCC will be close to maximum capacity by the end of January 2012.”

— *Corrective Services Minister Neil Roberts*