

ROEBOURNE WORK CAMP

**501. Mr B.J. GRYLLS to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I note that the minister recently opened the new Roebourne work camp funded with royalties for regions funds. It is hard to keep up with all the new openings happening in the Pilbara at the moment. Can the minister please update the house on how this will make prisoners better ready for work?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for Pilbara for his question and his ongoing support of increasing the services that the Department of Corrective Services delivers in his electorate, which allow for more and more, in particular, Aboriginal people in the north west to spend their time behind bars in country.

Last Friday, accompanied by the member for Forrestfield, I opened the new Roebourne work camp just across the car park from Roebourne Regional Prison. The new 30-bed minimum-security work camp will provide a lot of opportunities for those offenders in community corrections to participate in reform programs and also for prisoners moving out of the —

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It will also provide opportunities for prisoners working their way out of the medium-security prison in Roebourne into the minimum-security facility. Of course, the minimum-security work camp will encourage prisoners to behave better. They know that if they do the right thing, they are more likely to be downgraded to minimum security, in which case they can do more to repay society for their debts; they can become more job ready and do more to ensure that when they get out of prison, they do not return. Interestingly, I was talking to a number of the prisoners up there and some of them who will be released shortly have already lined up jobs at Cloudbreak mine site with Fortescue Metals Group. A lot of people are really looking forward to changing their lives around and getting on with making a positive contribution back to society.

Over the past five years, this government has spent \$655 million—a record amount of investment—in delivering more beds within the Western Australian prison system. We have a lot of space right now in Albany Regional Prison, Casuarina Prison, and Hakea Prison. Lots of cells are ready because we know that the right thing to do is to plan in advance. We have another net 250 prison beds coming online when the goldfields prison is completed. That 350-bed facility will provide an additional 250 beds. Another 387 beds will come online next year at Acacia Prison. We are getting on with the job of running the prison system in Western Australia effectively and efficiently. I have a newsflash for both the Labor Party and the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union; they do not run the Department of Corrective Services or the prison system in Western Australia. The Commissioner of Corrective Services and the Department of Corrective Services run the prison system in Western Australia; it is not the Western Australian Prison Officers' Union, and certainly not the member for Warnbro.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time.