

**Question on Notice  
No. 405  
Asked on Thursday 13 March 2008**

**MS JARRATT** asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland Corrective Services Work Camps that are well received in local communities in which they have been based—

Will she outline some of the key projects work camps have completed and how they have contributed to these local communities?

ANSWER:

Work Camps have a long tradition of assisting remote communities following natural disasters dating back to the 1990 Charleville floods.

Last financial year, Work Camps provided approximately 100,000 hours to community service projects, valued at \$1.5 million.

Over the past months, many Queensland communities have been devastated by floods. The intense weather conditions have left a trail of damage and debris around many of these towns – and the clean up job has been too great for many small communities to manage.

Queensland Corrective Services has stepped up to the challenge – with prisoner work camps being deployed to a range of areas, to provide emergency assistance. Work Camp crews have been on the ground in Beaudesert, St George, Charleville, Springsure, Clermont, Emerald and Mackay.

In recent times, a Darling Downs Correctional Centre Work Camp crew were the first Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) team on site to assist in the rebuilding of Innisfail in the wake of Cyclone Larry in 2006.

Last year, a Darling Downs Correctional Centre Work Camp crew went to Tara to assist in the clean-up of the town after a freak storm tore through the area and the Warwick Women's Work Camp stepped in, to provide valuable assistance to horse owners affected by the equine flu quarantine at the Morgan Park Equestrian Centre.

The work crews deployed to help in these areas have been performing a range of jobs:

- cleaning up yards – removing tree branches, rubbish, mud and debris from residences and suburban streets
- removing furniture and putting floor covering materials in place
- assisting to fill thousands of sandbags for use by businesses and home owners in Charleville
- building temporary levies
- rebuilding fences
- assisting in the rebuild of the Emerald Botanic Gardens.

In total, over 3000 hours of labour has been performed by work camp prisoners assisting with the clean up efforts.

Following the flooding which devastated the Mackay area recently, a team of low risk prisoners arrived in Mackay from the Darling Downs Correctional Centre on Monday, 10 March 2008, to help the local community rebuild.

This Work Crew, made up of prisoners from the Darling Downs Correctional Centre are assisting local authorities in the clean-up of public areas and to help get flood damaged infrastructure up and running.

The twelve low risk prisoners, supervised by two corrective services officers, are providing essential manpower for the local community.

The work camp prisoners are assisting in clearing debris from parks, gardens and sporting venues, removing rubbish, repairing fences and concreting. Some of the first tasks to be performed by the prisoners include cleaning a road reserve area outside the township of Calen, and cleaning up the Council Free Camping area at St Helens Beach.

As at 2 April 2008, the Mackay Work Camp had contributed approximately \$10 850 worth of labour to the local community.