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## **CLARENCE VALLEY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR SECURES CONTRACT WORKING ON NEW CLARENCE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**

Clarence Valley electrical contractor, McGrath Electrical and Data at South Grafton, has secured a contract for installing more than 120km of security cabling at the new Clarence Correctional Centre, Clarence Nationals MP Chris Gulaptis has announced.

Mr Gulaptis said it was terrific to see another local business securing a contract to deliver works on what will be Australia's largest prison.

"Forty seven percent of the workforce are local to the Clarence Valley, with 26 percent of the onsite team being apprentices.

"This is a significant boost to the local job market and economy.

"I'd like to express my thanks to those helping deliver this important project including Northern Pathways, Saab Australia and Chubb Fire & Security for making it a priority to work with local businesses", Mr Gulaptis said.

The owner of McGrath Electrical and Data, Scott McGrath said his company has been appointed to install 50,000m of fibre optic cable and more than 70,000m of copper cable over a two-year period.

"We will need to employ approximately 90 people and hope to secure as many locals as possible. We're working with TAFE, John Holland and the government to provide training for the people we'll need," Mr McGrath said.

"We already have workers onsite but need to get an additional 90 up to speed when the level of work increased over the coming months."

Mr McGrath said most of the workers will begin work with 'data tickets', which will be beneficial for the region's skills when the local roll out of the NBN begins.

"This contract is by far the biggest contract this company has taken on despite working on projects around the state.

"There's going to be two years of work installing and then there'll also be testing the systems during the commissioning period," he said.

Saab Australia and its partner Chubb Fire & Security who are providing the centre's security technology were keen to secure local resources. The two companies focused on hiring resources locally to work within their teams as well as to support local businesses.

McGrath Electrical was selected because of the company's experience in installing the security systems and cabling infrastructure at the Coffs Harbour Court House and Police Station.

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