New Era for Territory Corrections

The Northern Territory Government today announced a new era in corrections, including the innovative design of the new Doug Owston Correctional Facility and the establishment of work camps in regional areas.

Chief Minster Paul Henderson today joined with Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy to outline the new direction for correctional services across the Territory.

“We'll continue to crack down on crime but there will be a stronger emphasis on breaking the cycle of offending,” Mr Henderson said.

“We need to reduce the number of repeat offenders, that’s why there will be a renewed focus on rehabilitation and training.

“The construction of the $300 million correctional facility will also provide 375 direct jobs and 180 indirect jobs across the Territory.”

Mr Henderson said the new $300 million Doug Owston Correctional Facility would be located about 8 kilometres north west of Noonamah on Jenkins Road off the Stuart Highway.

“The centre will be named after Doug Owston in recognition of his commitment to establishing correctional services across the Territory which encouraged rehabilitation and education.

“The prison will adopt best practise in design and construction, including a school and training facilities.

“Unfortunately the Berrimah prison does not allow for these opportunities to be developed and expanded. It is time for a new era in corrections.

“Moving to work on release is the best way to ensure prisoners are not going to re-offend.

“The Doug Owston Correctional Facility will be a contemporary prison with the most modern electronic and physical security systems.”

The correctional facility will also include a mental health and behavioural management facility for people in the criminal justice system who have a mental illness or disorder.

Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy said the new era in corrections will also include a focus on low security regional correctional services.

“We will begin a trial work camp in the Barkly and begin developing a 10 year plan for low security regional corrections services.”

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