A Safe Territory: $7.6 M for a New Barkly Work Camp

Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy today announced Budget 2010 will deliver a new 50 bed prisoner work camp in Tennant Creek.

Mr McCarthy said the Henderson Government is providing $5.1 million to construct a new Barkly Work Camp which is due to start in the coming months and $2.5 million for the operation of the camp which due to start in early 2011.

“The new Barkly Work Camp is part of this Government’s new era in corrections and will help to end the cycle of crime by helping prisoners learn valuable work and life skills to increase their employment opportunities,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Through the Henderson Government’s Safe Territory plan our Government is getting tough on crime and convicted offenders.

“However research shows that prisoners released from prison with low education and employment skills are very likely to end up back in prison.

“The new work camp will be based in Tennant Creek and allow prisoners to participate in community work projects, learn valuable work and life skills and give something back to the community so they don’t end up breaking the law and back in prison.

“This camp will help to end the revolving door by providing prisoners with the skills to successfully transition back into the community.

“Work camps can significantly reduce high recidivism rates, particularly among Indigenous offenders who make up 82 per cent of the prisoner population.

“Projects and programs at the new work camp will include training during the day and education at night with a specific aim to fill real jobs where skills shortages might exist.

“The new work camp will also provide opportunities for community involvement with prisoners and offenders to help them integrate back into the community.”

Mr McCarthy said the Henderson Government is investing in our future.

“Construction of the new work camp will also support jobs and boost the economy in Tennant Creek,” Mr McCarthy said.

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