The Territory Government is investing $27 million in the 2011 Budget to provide water, power and road infrastructure at the new Corrections Precinct at Holtze, under the Territory Government’s New Era in Corrections.

“The new Doug Owston Correctional Facility and new Mental Health Behavioural Management Facility, is a key part of our New Era in Corrections to provide a state-of-the-art prison facility with a stronger focus on rehabilitation,” Minister for Correctional Services Gerry McCarthy said.

“The Henderson Government is investing in our ongoing commitment to providing real rehabilitation avenues for inmates and breaking the cycle of reoffending.

“The investment also provides a massive boost for the local economy – the project is expected to generate more than 1000 direct and indirect jobs during construction of the Precinct,” Minister McCarthy said.

Minister McCarthy also announced tenders are now open to build the access road to the site.

“In the coming months the Corrections Precinct at Holtze will become a hive of construction activity and will provide a valuable economic boost to our local construction industry.

“Once complete the facility will be state-of-the-art in both design and security and will provide the rehabilitation facilities vital to helping offenders rehabilitate back into the community.”

The new prison will include:

• dedicated space for education, programs support, industries, and life skills training;
• program space and accommodation for Elders and Respected Persons working with prisoners;
• a horticulture area for food production;
• staff training facilities; and
• a Drug Detection Dog Unit.

“Work will commence on the headwork infrastructure for the Precinct by the end of the year and the prison is planned to be operational in 2014.”

Minister for Correctional Services, Gerry McCarthy said the capital investment was on top of funding already included in the 2011 Budget to provide 18 new dedicated Community Corrections Officers and new electronic surveillance equipment to track parolees once they are released in the community.
“We’re investing more than $3.5 million in this year’s Budget to bolster the newly restructured Northern Territory Community Corrections unit with extra resources to implement Community Custody Orders under the Territory Government’s New Era in Corrections.

“Community Custody Orders are a key part of our New Era of Corrections and ensure offenders undergo rehabilitation, education and training, and work programs.

Budget 2011 includes:
• $1.9 million to deliver 18 new Community Corrections Officers;
• $1.5 to deliver new electronic surveillance equipment to track parolees in the community, including 30 electronic anklets; and
• $200,000 million to train staff to increase skills in managing offenders on the new orders and use of new surveillance equipment.

For more information visit www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au.

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