Prison trailers aid community work crews in new era

Alice Springs Correctional Centre inmates have been building trailers for prisoner work crews under the Henderson government’s new era in corrections initiative.

Correctional Services Minister Gerry McCarthy said four of nine new trailers have already been made and are being used in Darwin and the Barkly Work Camp near Tennant Creek.

“The Henderson government is providing the courts with two new types of sentencing orders to help reduce re-offending rates and reintegrate offenders back into the community,” he said.

“Under these provisions we will have low-level offenders and those facing sentences of under 12 months working on projects to benefit the community.

“The aim is to break the cycle of violence through training and opening up career options for these offenders.”

Mr McCarthy said community work crews in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek had already been busy throughout the Territory.

Last financial year supervised crews on existing community orders completed 10694 hours saving the community more than $130,000.

While so far this financial year, prisoners from the Barkly Work Camp completed a total of 11,214 hours of work in and around Tennant Creek saving the community a total of $168,168.

“That’s an impressive contribution for a work camp that opened only last September.

“In 2012, with the new sentencing options fully functional we’ll be seeing even greater contributions by offenders with even greater savings for all Territorians.”

Mr McCarthy said prisoners working on the trailers in the metal fabrication shop received welding accreditations from the Centre for Appropriate Technology.

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