$10 million corrections boost for Alice Springs

Correctional Services Minister, Gerry McCarthy, today announced that Alice Springs will undergo a $10.36 million corrections infrastructure and services boost in the upcoming 2012 budget.

He said a new $5.78 million 20 bed supported accommodation and program centre for driving offenders will be built, and Alice Springs Correctional Centre will undergo a $4.58 million capacity and services injection.

“Under the Henderson Government there are more police on the streets than ever before – and record numbers of prisoners,” he said.

Minister McCarthy said the Government made no apologies for being tough on crime and was strategically meeting prison capacity demand as part of the upcoming budget, the New Era in Corrections and Territory 2030 targets.

Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton, said that the 20-bed supported accommodation and program centre will house community-based offenders as well as low-security prisoners who would have otherwise been sent to the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.

“Offenders who are court-ordered to this facility will include those who have been incarcerated for drink driving, driving unregistered and so on,” Mr Hampton said.

He said the offenders would undertake driver rehabilitation training including road rules and attitude and behaviour management classes. Additional non-driving related programs will be offered according to demand.

And at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre, as part of the Territory Government’s $120 million investment into the five-year roll out of the New Era in Corrections, the following is to be funded:

- 50 more prisoner beds and 29 staff positions
- Demountable prisoner accommodation
- A gatehouse
- Medical clinic
- Education and program space
- Industries training area

“Both of these significant projects will provide a massive boost for the local economy with more than 20 direct and indirect jobs expected to be created during construction,” Mr Hampton said.

Media contact Gerry McCarthy: Kelly Parkes 0419 409 958
Media contact Karl Hampton: Gino Luglietti 0404 119 794