Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, welcomed the backflip by the CLP who today acknowledged that the new prison was designed to reduce reoffending.

Minister for Corrections, John Elferink, today toured the new prison site and talked about how the educational and workplace facilities designed by the previous Government will help reduce reoffending.

Mr Elferink pointed out that the prison project was on time and on budget.

“By combining the capital and building maintenance over 30 years Mr Elferink continues to show he is confused about the benefits of a Public Private Partnership despite the Auditor General’s report that recognises the Territory got a good deal,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Auditor General’s report shows a Public Sector Comparison – if the Government built and maintained the facility it would have cost more.”

Independent experts assessed the costs of a new prison at the existing Berrimah site as more expensive than the more suitable option chosen by Labor.

“The CLP are busy complaining about the cost of a new prison yet they will need this new prison and more as a result of their mandatory sentencing,” Ms Lawrie said.

The cost of building and maintaining the prison over 30 years is similar to other prison projects. The medium security Ararat prison project in Victoria is a third the size and is costing $1.1 billion over 25 years.

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