A Wedge Tail Eagle will be extradited to New South Wales, where it will serve the remainder of its sentence at Taronga Park Zoo’s secure care facility.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said the Eagle must be transferred to Sydney where it can receive specialised services for the rare psychological issues it faces.

“It appears the Wedge Tail Eagle suffers a severe identity crisis as it believes it is a Kite,” Mr Elferink said.

“Having shared its time in prison with Kites, there are fears it would fail to reintegrate into the community and it has been ruled it is no longer fit to be released.

“The jail bird has not developed the necessary skills to survive outside the prison confines,” Mr Elferink said.

The Eagle has been held at the Darwin Correctional Centre (DCC) since September last year where it was admitted suffering from a broken corokiot (collarbone).

Prisoners participating in the Native Fauna Program have returned the Eagle back to excellent physical health.

The Native Fauna Program allows prisoners to care for injured or orphaned animals, many requiring a high level of time and attention.

“It is expected the Eagle will take centre stage at Taronga Park Zoo on the flight deck, being tame and easy to train,” Mr Elferink said.

“The extradition process will take place next week where the eagle will travel under escort to New South Wales.

“The Eagle is not considered to be a flight risk,” Mr Elferink said.

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