



Tasmania

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRISONS

REDEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM

INFORMATION SHEET 1

Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program (PIRP)

November 2001

As you may be aware in May this year the Tasmanian Government announced the redevelopment of the Tasmanian Prisons system. It was decided to re-build on the Risdon site after a number of different options were considered. A decision will be made about the possible redevelopment of remand facilities in the North of the State once the new Southern prison has been built. The Hayes Prison and the Launceston Remand Centre will continue to operate during the redevelopment program until replacement facilities are available.

The new prison will provide secure facilities that can safely accommodate and manage diverse groups of prisoners as well as provide conditions that are humane and lead to better rehabilitation for prisoners.

As you are maybe aware the existing prison facilities provide very limited facilities for visits by family, service providers or friends, limited open space and indoor recreation areas, inadequate spaces for programs to be offered and limited staff facilities. It has also been difficult in the current prison facility to provide appropriate services for people who may be vulnerable if housed with other prisoners (eg young people, people with mental health conditions). The existing buildings were built largely for maximum security prisoners. These days the majority of prisoners are of low to medium security classification.

The decision made by the Government was that the new prison facilities would be built and operated by the Government, although consideration was given to the possibility of private sector financing and operation.

Currently survey and site planning work is taking place which means

that the actual site is being looked at to see how it can best be used to accommodate the new prison complex. Groups with a particular interest in the site (eg people who own properties that border the site, organisations that provide services to prisoners) are being contacted to seek their initial views on the redevelopment. It is envisaged that construction will begin on the site in the next financial year.

As part of the initial planning for the redevelopment a document called a preliminary 'Functional Brief' was developed. This was **not** the building plan but an early part of the planning process. Further work is being done on this document to make sure that all of the activities that need to be catered for in the new prison complex are included.

While planning is underway for the new buildings on the site there are also operational changes occurring within the Prison (eg planning programs to be offered to women prisoners, increasing the range of health programs offered).

It is recognised that there are many groups in the community that have a strong interest in the re-development process including:

- families and friends of prisoners
- prisoners
- staff of the Prison Service
- other service providers (eg non-government support services)
- social justice organisations
- unions
- residents of the Risdon Vale area
- the Aboriginal community
- contractors with an interest in the redevelopment
- Local Government
- Government Departments.

We want to make sure that all of those with an interest in the re-development receive information

about progress with the project as well as have the opportunity to contribute their ideas. The Program will use the following methods to keep you updated:

- regular written information updates on progress provided to key groups with an interest in the redevelopment;
- updates in local newsletters and newspapers;
- displays of design and other relevant information in local community facilities;
- forums at key points of the redevelopment process;
- information posted on the project website.

Information about the Program can be accessed through the Department of Justice and Industrial Relations website:

www.justice.tas.gov.au. You will need to follow the links to the Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program (PIRP) area of the site.

You can provide feedback to the Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program by:

- Emailing the Program at PIRP@justice.tas.gov.au;
- Sending written comments to the PIRP team at The Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program, The Department of Justice and Industrial Relations, GPO Box 825H, Hobart, Tasmania 7001;
- Ringing the Program Unit on Phone (03) 6233 4758; or
- Submitting your comments electronically through the website.

If you wish to receive information about the Prison infrastructure redevelopment you can register your interest by contacting the Program Unit on (03) 6233 4758.