

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRISONS

REDEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM



Tasmania

INFORMATION SHEET 5
June 2003

The schematic design is now completed

Over the last few months the team of design consultants has been developing, in conjunction with the Prison Service and The Department of Health and Human Services, the schematic design for individual facilities within the site and for the overall site plan. The schematic design has also been informed by the stakeholder information collected through earlier stages of the project.

The schematic design was endorsed by the Project Steering Committee and the Attorney General in April. Further consultation with stakeholder groups will take place from now until the end of June. While the overall plan for the new facilities has now been determined it is likely that there will be continuing changes in the organisation of rooms and facilities within the overall complex in response to stakeholder feedback.

Some changes have occurred since the master planning stage

Two significant changes have occurred as a result of the planning process over the last few months.

The new women's prison facility will be a combination of new buildings and re-modelled existing buildings. It will have a larger site,

with new buildings added to provide appropriate facilities (rather than the whole women's prison being demolished as was being considered in earlier planning stages).

The new men's maximum and medium security prison will be built as a separate facility. Consideration was given to attaching the new facility to the existing maximum security prison. However, the planning process has indicated that the separation of the facilities will provide a better outcome.

As noted in earlier information the existing men's maximum prison will be redeveloped to provide suitable accommodation and support services for up to 120 lower security inmates in the short to medium-term. This stage of the redevelopment (stage C) does *not* involve the provision of new minimum accommodation for male prisoners. Hayes Prison Farm will continue to operate until the final location of all men's minimum security accommodation is determined. This will be the subject of a future submission to Government.

An increased number of medium security beds as well as specialist prisoner units

The new prison facilities will provide a total of 283 *new* accommodation

beds. It will also include support beds and specialist units to enable the Prison Service to separate male prisoners with particular needs or behavioural issues from the mainstream prisoner population. These specialist units and support beds include:

- a Behaviour Management Unit
- protection beds
- a Detention Unit
- a Needs Assessment Unit
- crisis support beds.

The Correctional Health Centre, to be operated by the Department of Health and Human Services will provide six inpatient beds for prisoners who require medical inpatient care.

The maximum security accommodation for men has been consolidated into three buildings during this stage of the planning to cut down the size of the overall complex and be more functional. Mainstream maximum security prisoners will be accommodated in two units of 26 prisoners each. Each maximum security unit will have access to an internal and a secure external exercise area, as well as a secure sports court. Other prisoner recreation facilities (e.g. recreation hall and sports oval) are not included in stage C of the redevelopment. However, space has been provided for future development of these



OVERALL DESIGN JUNE 2003

facilities.

The prison complex is being built to accommodate future expansion (e.g. approximately 50 additional maximum security beds and 80 medium security beds).

The new facilities will enable the prison to operate in line with national best practice in terms of classification of inmates and the proportion of maximum to medium security beds. In the future the

majority of prisoners accommodated at Risdon will be classified as medium with a smaller (than current) proportion classified as maximum.

Facilities for women prisoners

The women's prison will provide accommodation for 45 women of all classifications. There will also be space provided for a future 15-bed expansion of the women's facility if

this is required.

The majority of women prisoners are of medium and minimum security rating which will be reflected in the design of the prison and perimeter fence specifications. The existing cells will be redeveloped to be suitable for medium and minimum accommodation.

New maximum security cells will be built which provide for two security levels within the maximum rated

complex. The maximum security area will have its own higher security perimeter system.

Some of the existing wall of the women's prison will be maintained for screening purposes and a new wire fence will enclose the site. The women's prison site will extend to encompass the existing training cottage and the area around it. This facility will be converted to provide accommodation for six mothers with accompanying children. The area adjacent to the cottage will provide for considerable outdoor space and recreation areas.

Other services (e.g. visits, prisoner processing, health facilities and administration) will be provided through construction of a new multi-function centre and the redevelopment of the existing administration block.

Visitor processing, visits facilities and car parking

A new Visitor Processing Centre located outside the secure perimeter of the prison complexes will be the first point of contact for all visitors as well as deliveries to the site. This area will provide seating, lockers, toilet facilities as well as the facilities required for registering and processing visitors to the site.

Within the new men's prison complex a visits facility will provide appropriate areas for the different types of visits to maximum/medium-rated prisoners (e.g. contact, non-contact, family, and professional visits). This facility is to be located on the secure spine of the complex and is within close proximity of the main gate to enable easy access.

The new prison facility will provide greatly enhanced car parking facilities for both staff and visitors with 40 visitor car parks and 80 staff spaces located in separate areas. A small amount of car parking will also be provided in the vicinity of the women's prison.

Staff support and training facilities

The new prison will also include a number of staff facilities to support the efficient operation of the new prison complexes including:

- a 45-seat staff dining complex located within the secure spine of the new men's prison;
- re-location of the staff gym facility to a larger, existing residence, so that it is in close proximity to the clubhouse; and
- staff lockers and storage located in interim accommodation.

The existing staff clubhouse will remain in operation at its current location now that the women's prison is to be re-developed on its current site.

Interim staff training facilities are to be provided in a pair of conjoined cottages, which will be re-located to provide an appropriate facility.

The existing fire station and maintenance shed will continue to function in their current locations as will the existing administration building.

Prisoner education, offender services and workshop facilities

Provision has been made for a number of multi-purpose education and programs spaces throughout the men's prison complex, including a program room in each cell block

in maximum and two multi-purpose classrooms in a central Offender Services Unit. Some classroom facilities will be retained in the existing men's prison complex (the current Risdon Maximum). A new workshop facility will be provided in the new maximum/medium men's prison. Within the women's prison suitable facilities will be developed for programs to be offered to the different classifications of prisoners.

Addressing access issues within the complex

As there is considerable slope on the site there is a need to develop suitable access ramps between facilities. These will be built at a 1 in 20 gradient to enable people with disabilities and staff with meal and medication trolleys to travel easily between parts of the prison complex. Consideration has been given to the width of the movement corridors to enable effective movement by all groups.

Each accommodation block will provide one cell that is able to house a prisoner with physical disabilities, if this is required. Consultation with disability support and advocacy groups has provided important information about the options for the location of facilities within the disability access cells and common areas. Further consultation will be undertaken when more detailed plans are developed.

The Secure Mental Health Unit

Detailed planning for the specialist Secure Mental Health Unit will continue over the coming months. The new unit will provide 35 beds for clients requiring a secure, specialised mental health facility. Eighteen beds will provide for those who require a medium level of care and 12 will be for those requiring a higher level of care. Five beds will be designed as independent living units to enable those requiring long-term care in a secure facility to live as independently as possible. The facility will include treatment, recreation and other support facilities. It is designed to enable a balance between observation and care for clients and the provision of privacy and a residential-style atmosphere.

As noted in earlier information the Secure Mental Health Unit will operate as a separate facility, be located some distance from the prison complex, have its own access road branching off from the entrance to the site and car parking, and will be designed as a health facility. It will be operated by the Department of Health and Human Services. A suitable name for the Unit will be developed over the coming months.

Operation of the new prison facilities

The new prison complex, when completed, will operate as a 'placement prison' which means that the most of the initial assessment and classification of prisoners will take place at the Remand Centres before prisoners arrive at the Risdon complex.

The new prison facilities will operate in a very different manner to the current facility. Quite a number of staff will be 'roving' in the different parts of the complex rather than stationed at fixed posts, as is currently the case. Movement within the new prison will be controlled by a series of movement control stations, which operate electronic locks and are located at key points around the complex.

The new prison will operate on the basis of a structured day, whereby prisoner activities are programmed across the day. A proposal for the structured day approach has been developed by the Prison Service and work is progressing on a new classification system.

Appointing a managing contractor

In March 2003 registrations of interest were called for the managing contractor (the builder). The first part of the registration of interest process has now been completed and short listing for the tender process has begun. The managing contractor will be appointed by August 2003.

Cabinet approval of contractor financing for the project

In March Cabinet gave approval for contractor financing for the project, which means that the completion of the new prison complex and secure mental health facility can be achieved 18 months earlier than the original schedule. The earlier planning was based on an allocation from each of the State Government annual budgets over 7 years. Contractor financing will allow the contractor to complete the facilities within a continuous building program.

The facilities will be owned and operated by the Government.

Development Application and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

The first presentation of the project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works took place in February. The first presentation provided the Committee with an overview of the project and included a tour of the Risdon Prison campus and site. Members of the Committee also visited a number of the prison facilities, the Hobart Remand Centre and the Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit of the Royal Hobart Hospital on a subsequent visit in April. The second presentation to the Committee took place in May and involved the presentation of the Schematic Design.

The process of seeking Local Government Planning Approval for the project commenced in early May with a Development Application to the Clarence City Council.

Organisational Development within the Prison Service

A number of strategies are being used to support the organisation's transition to the new operating environment:

- a comprehensive Organisational Development Strategy has been developed;
- the Organisational Development Support Officers, who are drawn from across the Prison Service, meet regularly to provide input from staff and assist with communication about the transition process;
- staff working parties have also been used to focus on specific issues (e.g. development of the prisoner structured day program, new assessment and classification processes);
- a whole-of-agency approach has been adopted for offender management and the Prison Service is working closely with Community Corrections and Youth Justice to advance these issues.

The next stage of the Redevelopment Program

The next stage of the Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program is the Design Development phase. This will continue until October. During this time there will be considerable testing of the Schematic Design with stakeholder groups and detailed planning of project components will proceed.

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