

Northern Correctional Facility

Project Update-December 2022

One of the four strategic goals identified in the recently released Department of Justice's Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is to improve access to justice through the provision of contemporary infrastructure. Modern well designed correctional infrastructure is critical to deliver targeted rehabilitation and reintegration programs and processes that improve lives and reduce harm for sentenced offenders within the Tasmanian corrections system.

To support this plan, the Tasmanian Government has committed to build a new, purpose-built Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) which will optimise the operation of our state's corrective service and support strong rehabilitative outcomes for people who come into contact with the state's corrections system.

To ensure the NCF's primary focus on rehabilitation and reintegration for minimum and medium rated offenders, the Government is also investing in additional maximum security facilities at the Risdon Prison Complex in southern Tasmania. This includes \$50 million for the development of a new maximum security unit within the existing Risdon Prison Complex, which will also help alleviate current bed pressures for maximum rated offenders.

Following consultation with the Meander Valley community earlier this year, and given what is currently understood about the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) site in terms of its suitability for a correctional facility and the impending closure of the existing facility, the Government has determined that it is the best site for the development of this project.

The Department of Justice, through its dedicated NCF Project Team, continues to progress the due diligence investigations required as part of the normal statutory planning process for the development of this important project at the AYDC site.

Specialist consultants appointed

Responding to the community's request that a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) be prepared as part of due diligence investigations, the Department of Justice has engaged social planning consultants Andrea Young Planning Consultants and BBC Consulting Planners to prepare an independent SIA. Over the coming months the consultants will investigate the issues raised by the community and recommend ways to reduce or avoid any negative impacts and strengthen the positive impacts.

Building on the comprehensive public consultation already undertaken, the specialist consultants will engage with key stakeholders (e.g. local community services, business and industry), including near neighbours of the AYDC site to further understand the social impacts that this development will have on the region. An important outcome of this work will be to identify how any identified impacts can be mitigated through the development of the facility's operating model and design. The work will be undertaken in a series of stages with the first stage consisting of the scoping of potential impacts that require further assessment, and an engagement strategy with impacted stakeholders.

In addition to the SIA, an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) has also been commissioned. The Project Team has appointed Deloitte Access Economics as the consultants that will undertake the EIA. The purpose of the EIA will be to model the economic impact of the NCF project in the region. Importantly it will examine the impact on Gross Regional Product (GRP), employment, and industry impacts.

Due Diligence Assessments

The Project Team is committed to providing regular updates and information regarding the progress of the project to all interested parties. This will include making any reports from the due diligence investigations available at the earliest opportunity. It is anticipated the SIA (Stage 1) and EIA reports will be completed in early 2023 and reports on Natural Values and Bushfire Hazard assessments are expected to be finalised and publicly available by the end of this year.

If you would like to receive updates on the project's progress, including information about the SIA, please visit the project website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf, or register for the project mailing list via email to northerncorrectionalfacility@justice.tas.gov.au.