

Northern Correctional Facility

Public Consultation on future use of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site

On 9 September 2021, the Government announced the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) within the next three years and the establishment of two new therapeutic facilities for youths in the north and south of the State. The Tasmanian Government is committed to building a Northern Correctional Facility to optimise the service delivery of the State's prison service. While the reports from the investigations at the designated site on the Crown land on Birralelee Road are currently being finalised, the closure of AYDC presents an opportunity to potentially consider the development of this project at this alternative location. Preliminary desktop assessment by the Department of Justice indicates that the site appears to be well suited as a location for a modern, fit for purpose correctional facility in northern Tasmania, with a custodial facility a permitted use within the current zone for the site under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Meander Valley.

About the consultation process

The Tasmanian Government is committed to engaging with the local Meander Valley community on the future use of the AYDC site before making any final decision. Therefore, we are seeking input from the community on the option of the future use of AYDC site for the development of the Northern Correctional Facility. Consultation with key communities and stakeholders will help inform the Government in making the decision on the future use of the AYDC site and its suitability for this important project.

The consultation process will be facilitated by the Department of Justice and will enable the community to have their say in a number of ways. Community engagement will include:

- a 'shop front' style information booth in Deloraine and its surrounds, to provide information to, and hear directly from, community members;
- a dedicated website to include regular up to date information; and
- opportunities for the community to express their views and provide feedback either by phone, email or by written submission.

Further details on these engagement methods will be publicly advertised in due course.

About the Project

A key part of the Government's corrections infrastructure plan is the commitment to build a Northern Correctional Facility. The new facility will have a key focus on rehabilitation, reintegration, training and education opportunities for offenders and will allow them to be accommodated significantly closer to their families and support networks, which is expected to increase visitation rates and reduce recidivism. This focus on rehabilitation, education and reintegration strongly aligns with the establishment of the facility as primarily for sentenced offenders who are progressing through their sentences and starting to prepare for reintegration into the community, as well as a Northern Remand Centre for people who have been detained in custody pending the outcome of their court appearances.

Register for project updates

If you would like to receive updates on the project, you can register for our mailing list via email to northerncorrectionalfacility@justice.tas.gov.au

For more information on the project, visit www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf

