

Northern Correctional Facility

Project Update July 2023

One of the key priorities highlighted in the Government's recently released [Strategic Plan for Corrections in Tasmania \(the Plan\)](#), is to improve and build infrastructure to deliver contemporary approaches for Tasmania's Corrections system. Modern, well designed correctional infrastructure is critical in order to provide targeted rehabilitation and reintegration programs and processes that improve lives and reduce harm for inmates within our Corrections system, and ultimately contribute to a safer community.

To support this Plan, the Tasmanian Government has committed to building a new Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) which will optimise the operation of the Corrections system. The NCF will support successful rehabilitation and reintegration through increased training and education opportunities, and by maintaining better connections to family and other support networks in northern Tasmania.

With its key focus on rehabilitation, the NCF will accommodate inmates who are progressing through their sentences and preparing for reintegration into the community. It will also include a reception centre for newly received offenders, and remand sections for both men and women who have been detained in custody pending their court appearances.

To enable the NCF's primary focus on rehabilitation and reintegration for inmates transitioning through their sentences, the Tasmanian Government is investing in an additional maximum rated accommodation facility at the Risdon Prison Complex in southern Tasmania. This includes \$50 million in the 2023-24 State Budget for the development of this new maximum rated unit, which will also help alleviate current bed pressures for this cohort of inmates.

Following consultation with the Meander Valley community last year and the planned closure of this existing Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) facility, the Department of Justice has commenced due diligence assessments on the site for the development of the NCF.

About the Due Diligence Assessments

The Department of Justice (DoJ), 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. As part of this, the NCF Project Team is working with independent consultants to prepare the following reports:

- Aboriginal Heritage Assessment;
- Historic (European) Heritage Assessment;
- Natural Values Assessment;
- Bushfire Hazard Assessment;
- Traffic Impact Assessment;
- Social Impact Assessment; and
- Economic Impact Assessment.

These assessments and reports will help inform the development of a Request for Tender (RFT) for architectural design services and the Development Application that will be submitted to the Meander Valley Council.

The NCF Project Team is committed to providing regular updates and information regarding the progress of the project to all interested parties. The reports for Traffic Impact, Historic (European) Heritage and Natural Values have all been published on the NCF website with the intention to make all reports publicly available, at the earliest opportunity. The next reports expected to be published soon are the Bushfire Hazard and Economic Impact assessments.

Social Impact Assessment

Responding to the community's request that a new 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. These consultants are investigating issues raised by the community and will recommend ways to minimise potential impacts.

Building on the comprehensive public consultation already undertaken for this project generally, the specialist consultants are engaging with key stakeholders (e.g. local community services, business and industry), including nearby neighbours of the AYDC site, to further understand the social impacts that this development may have on the region. An important outcome of this work will be to deliver a Social Impact Implementation Plan which outlines how identified impacts can be potentially mitigated through the development of the facility's design and operational model.

The community will be consulted again when the draft SIA Report and Implementation Plan has been prepared (which is expected later this year), and they will have the opportunity to review and comment on the report before it is finalised.

Learn More

For more information on the NCF project's progress, please visit the project's website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf

Members of the public who have questions about the NCF project are encouraged to contact the Project Team via email to northern Correctional Facility@justice.tas.gov.au