
MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State



Friday, 5 June 2009

Government to proceed with prison reforms

The State Government announced today that it would proceed with reforms in the Department of Corrective Services as planned.

The announcement came in the wake of an Upper House Standing Committee report calling for reforms to be delayed by three to six months.

“The Government’s reform agenda in Corrective Services will save taxpayers over \$60 million per annum once fully implemented,” said Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson.

“That’s an additional \$60 million to fund schools, hospitals, roads and other vital services and job creating infrastructure.

“The Government will not alter its timetable for the roll out of prison reform.”

Minister Robertson said that in Prisoner Escorts and Court Security six months was adequate time to identify \$5 million in savings to Government per annum.

“An application has already been made to the Industrial Relations Commission to oversight the negotiations between the Public Service Association and Department of Corrective Services to identify the required savings.

“Six months is plenty of time for the two parties to identify \$5 million per annum in efficiencies with the assistance of the IRC.

“There is a process in place, now it’s time to get on with the job.”

The Government also rejected the committee’s recommendation that the process of outsourcing at Parklea be delayed by three months.

“Any further delay to the outsourcing process would only result in uncertainty for workers at Parklea,” said Mr Robertson.

“The formal Requests for Tender went out to the shortlisted group of companies in early May and the outsourcing of Parklea will proceed as planned.

“All workers have been guaranteed ongoing employment with the Department of Corrective Services should they wish to stay.

“Employees also have the option of applying to transfer to the new operator with 12 months salary maintenance, or taking a voluntary redundancy.”

Mr Robertson said the Government was still examining the findings detailed in the 228 page report.

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