
MEDIA RELEASE



John Robertson MLC

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

Monday 3 August

MINISTER CONGRATULATES STAFF ON A JOB WELL DONE

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit Glen Innes Correctional Centre this Wednesday August 5 at 3:00pm with Country Labor MLC Christine Robertson.

Mr Robertson has praised the work of local staff in running such a unique correctional facility, integrating rehabilitation and training into the day to day running of the gaol.

“The staff here at Glen Innes manage to run a very successful saw mill, all while maintaining the highest standards of safety and security for around 150 inmates and the surrounding community.

“Last financial year Glen Innes Correctional centre generated over \$1.8 million in income.

“That money helps to offset the costs of imprisonment and fund important support services for victims and their families.”

The Minister said that the need for ongoing timber supply was so great that a new arrangement is being negotiated with Forests NSW to ensure the ongoing operation and possible expansion of the Glen Innes Correctional Centre mill.

“The local Member Richard Torbay has done some great work in facilitating those negotiations and I am proud to say that we are close to an agreement.

“The local people here in Glen Innes clearly recognise the contribution of this facility to the community at large and this new timber deal will ensure the sustainability of the centre for many years to come.

“Glen Innes is a model for inmate rehabilitation – providing opportunities for offenders to gain TAFE qualifications and connect directly into community based offender services.

“Inmates get the chance to develop practical job skills and qualifications for life post-release.

“Inmates who move through Glen Innes have lower reoffending rates, are more likely to gain employment on release and are better prepared for the challenges of life post release.

“All the research indicates that if former prison inmates can find stable housing and employment after leaving custody they are far less likely to reoffend.”

Country Labor MLC Christine Robertson said the gaol was an important employer in the local region, providing jobs for close to 50 local residents, including timber experts.

“Glen Innes has set the standard when it comes to minimum security corrections and industry which is a credit to the local staff here.”

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