
MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

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



Monday 3 August

MINISTER VISITS TAMWORTH CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit Tamworth Correctional Centre this Wednesday August 5 as part of a tour of the Northern region throughout this week.

Mr Robertson thanked the staff for their hard work often under difficult circumstances.

Minister Robertson said, "As a remand centre, Tamworth gaol has a high turn over of inmates which can be tough for staff, but they do a great job helping to free up police resources and ensure the smooth running of the local justice system."

The Minister praised the efforts of local staff who organise the Community Projects team, made up of supervised inmates who carry out tasks in the local community for non profit organisations and Tamworth Council.

As well as mowing lawns, removing rubbish and helping to maintain the local area, the supervised inmates are often called upon to clean up the damage caused by natural disasters.

"Following the major flooding in the Tamworth District late last year, these supervised inmates assisted in the clean-up program helping to repair the damage caused by the heavy rains." Mr Robertson said.

"Their contribution included restoring damaged sports fields and repairing many grave sites at the local cemetery that had sunk due to the heavy flooding".

Mr Robertson also wanted to reassure local prison staff that the operations of the prison will not be outsourced to the private sector.

"The only prison where operations are being outsourced is Parklea Correctional Centre in Western Sydney – where officers have the option of moving to one of eight prisons within a 25km radius".

"No correctional officer in Tamworth should have any concerns about the future of the Gaol. Tamworth Correctional Centre will remain public under a Labor Government."

Local Tamworth MP Peter Draper said the gaol was an important employer in the local region.

"Tamworth Correctional Centre supports close to 60 local jobs, and with significant funds flowing to a variety of Tamworth businesses, it is a highly valued contributor to our community," said Mr Draper.

**The Minister will tour Tamworth Correctional Centre at 10:00am on Wednesday 5 August with Local MP Peter Draper and Duty MLC Christine Robertson.
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