
MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

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



Wednesday 5 August

GREAT WORK BY LOCAL PRISON OFFICERS

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit the Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre in Kempsey on Friday August 7 at 1:30pm to inspect the site and praise local officers on their efforts in recent months.

“Here at Kempsey local correctional officers have had to deal with a natural disaster and an escape attempt in recent months, and they have done so commendably.

“Staff were locked in and isolated at the gaol for more than three days during the floods, caring for inmates on shift, then sleeping on site and returning to work without going home.

“Like everyone in this region, staff at the gaol had to make do with the resources and access they had, and they did so in a professional and dedicated manner.

“The highest level of security and care was maintained throughout the disaster and staff did an excellent job in making that happen.”

Minister Robertson will also inspect a sophisticated rope ladder constructed by inmates in order to facilitate an escape that was uncovered some weeks ago by staff at the gaol.

“It was only through a very astute and quick response by correctional staff that this escape attempt was prevented.

“Using inmate clothing and linen the offenders crafted a 10 metre long improvised rope ladder and grappling hook.

“Correctional officers and staff have to be on their toes 24/7 to ensure security is not breached and I am pleased to say that this particular attempt to escape was foiled.”

Kempsey is Minister Robertson’s last stop on a tour of the northern region’s correctional facilities and community offender services.

“Kempsey was the first gaol in NSW to open under the new and modern operating procedures.

“This means it is one of the most efficient and effective gaols in the state – delivering cost savings without compromising on safety and security.

“Under some pretty tough circumstances the staff here at Kempsey have done a fantastic job.”

The Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit the Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre (370 Aldavilla Road, Aldavilla) on Friday August 7 at 1:30pm with Duty MLC Kayee Griffin.

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