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# MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

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

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*Wednesday 5 August*

## MINISTER VISITS GRAFTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit Grafton Correctional Centre on Friday August 7 as part of a tour of the Northern region of the state.

The Minister is in town to inspect the correctional centre and to see first hand some of the community projects which have been operating out of the gaol.

“I am very impressed with the work that is being done here,” said Mr Robertson.

“From producing sleeping swags for a charity organisation for the homeless, to providing volunteer labour to the Rural Fire Service, Grafton gaol makes an important contribution to the local community”.

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.

“Following the recent flooding and storms in the Clarence Valley, these supervised inmates assisted in the clean up program helping to repair the damage caused by the destructive weather.”

“Their contribution included cleaning up Sandon Beach within the Yuraygir National Park, removing an estimated 12 cubic metres of plastic that had washed up on shore.”

Minister Robertson also praised local corrections staff for their dedication and commitment to community safety.

“Grafton Correctional Centre supports more than 130 jobs for local residents.

“It isn’t an easy job – but these officers work tirelessly, with some very difficult offenders.

“The rehabilitation programs offered at Grafton make a very real contribution to supporting the Government’s aim of reducing reoffending rates by 10% by 2016.

“It is the staff on the ground in communities like Grafton that can help us make that aim a reality,” said Mr Robertson.

**Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will visit Grafton Correctional Centre (170 Hoof Street) with Local Member for Clarence Steve Cansdell on Friday, August 7 at 9:00am.**

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