190 NEW JOBS FOR CESSNOCK

Around 190 new jobs will be created now approval has been given for a new $93 million 250-bed maximum security facility at Cessnock Correctional Centre at Nulkaba.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said there would be 150 construction jobs and 40 ongoing.

“This new facility will meet with the highest and latest standards for correctional centres, providing additional capacity needed as some existing centres in the NSW are decommissioned,” the Minister said.

“It will also provide accommodation for inmates from the Hunter, meaning they’ll remain in close proximity to family support networks, shown to reduce the potential for re-offending on release.

“The inclusion of a remand centre and health clinic will also reduce demands on local police stations and hospitals, minimise the need to transfer inmates in and out of the complex and lead to improved health care for them.

The new facility will include:

- two main accommodation buildings with capacity for a total of 200 inmates;
- a segregation accommodation building with capacity for 10;
- a custody-based intensive treatment building with capacity for 40;
- a health clinic;
- a remand centre;
- car parking for 94 vehicles;
- a chapel; and
- administration, gatehouse and visitor buildings.

A total of 56 strict conditions have been imposed to ensure the facility is developed and operated in a manner that does not impact inappropriately on the environment or local area.

They include:

- Provision of a biodiversity offset in perpetuity to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water;
- Cell design to comply with Public Health (General) Regulation 2002;
- A qualified ecologist to inspect the site and ensure any fauna, including any nests of the threatened grey-crowned babbler are relocated prior to construction of the facilities;
- Noise mitigation measures, including control of use of public address system during operational phase; and
- A 65 metre asset protection zone incorporated into the design to ensure protection from potential bushfire hazards.