

Friday, 28 May 2010

## **New support services and additional capacity approved for South Coast Correctional Centre**

Planning approval has been granted for an expansion of the South Coast Correctional Centre which will deliver valuable support services to recently released offenders, the NSW Department of Planning has announced.

The \$5.2 million project will deliver 50 construction jobs and 11 ongoing positions once complete.

The Department's Deputy Director-General of Development Assessment, Richard Pearson, said the approved modifications to the existing 500 bed male and female multi-classification security facility include:

- An additional 100 beds in male minimum security accommodation, including one new building and extensions to three existing buildings;
- Extension of the workshop/community centre; and
- A new Community Offenders Support Program Centre (COSPC).

"The COSPC will provide short to medium term accommodation for 40 recently released offenders and lower classification offenders who don't require incarceration," Mr Pearson said.

"This is an important new addition to the correctional centre, which will offer support to recently released inmates, such as helping to develop relationships with potential employers, so that they are less likely to re-offend upon release.

"The modification will also provide much needed additional capacity that will allow South Coast inmates to remain close to their families and support networks.

"With this approved modification – including the COSPC which is specifically designed to reduce the risk of re-offending – the correctional centre is well placed to continue delivering a net benefit to the local area."

Due to the location of the project in bushland, potential bushfire risks were a key consideration in the Department's assessment.

Following the advice of the Rural Fire Service, the COSPC building was relocated to the south-east, where it will be protected by a 70 metre buffer zone.

This amendment will also ensure that an important zone of vegetation along a creek is not disturbed.

Mr Pearson said the proponent, NSW Corrective Services, had also committed to preparing a vegetation management plan to protect and manage 74 hectares of bushland on site.

“The proponent will have to implement a number of measures to ensure the modifications are carried out in an appropriate manner, including requiring a Travel Management Plan to be prepared for the residents of the COSPC prior to occupation of the facility,” Mr Pearson said.