

New Prison Infrastructure



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Keep criminals off the streets with a new remand centre at the Risdon Prison site.
- Provide a major capital investment for a new prison in Northern Tasmania.
- Create more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.



Keeping Tasmanians safe

Major investment in new prison infrastructure

A re-elected, Majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest in two projects to increase prisoner capacity at the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) and keep criminals off our streets.

Our \$340 million commitment consists of:

- \$70 million for a new remand facility on the Risdon Prison site, housing up to 70 remandees within the next term; and
- \$270 million for a new prison in the north of the state to house approximately 270 prisoners. The Northern Prison will consist of two stages, with the first to house 140 prisoners and to be completed within five years (\$150m).

With new facilities in the north and the south of the state, the two major projects would see the creation of more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

New remand facility at Risdon Prison

Over the course of the next term, a Liberal Government will build a new remand facility on the Risdon Prison site – housing up to 70 remandees. This represents a significant capital outlay that will house an increasing population of remandees, a growing cohort in most Australian jurisdictions.

In Government, the Liberals have invested significantly in the Risdon site with a budgeted 61 new beds starting to come online this year. In the last four years, we have provided more than \$17 million to upgrade Risdon, a site that was left dilapidated by the previous Labor-Green Government.

We make no apologies for being tough on crime but where offenders are held without bail or sentenced to prison, we will ensure that the facilities required to house them are fit for purpose and adequately staffed.

Under the Liberals, 55 new correctional officers have been employed since May 2016, and 24 additional trainees are about to commence training. We are equipping the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) with the staff needed to perform their important duties.

Construction is projected to begin in the 2018-19 financial year, with projected completion in 2021.

Relevant Targets

#32: The lowest serious crime rate in the nation across all victimisation measures by 2022.

#33: The lowest use of crystal methamphetamine (ice) of any state by 2022.

Why Tasmania Needs This

The Liberal Government is acting decisively to turn around the soft on crime approach promoted by the former Labor-Green Government.

Tasmania's prison infrastructure is ageing and under pressure.

The Launceston Reception Facility is no longer fit for purpose.

Keeping Tasmanians safe

New Northern Prison

In addition to considerable extra capacity in the South, a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will build a modern, Northern Prison with capacity for approximately 270 prisoners.

The prison will be built in two stages, with \$150 million allocated for Stage 1. Construction is expected to commence in the 2019-20 financial year and will provide for up to 140 beds. Stage 1 will be completed within five years, with Stage 2 works to follow thereafter.

The northern Prison will provide accommodation for a variety of security classifications, remand facilities, and a women's prison.

While significant work is already underway, identifying an appropriate site and subsequent community consultation would commence immediately upon returning to government.

With more police on the beat and policies that ensure dangerous criminals are taken off our streets, a new prison facility is needed.

The Northern Prison will not only relieve pressure on the Risdon facility, but will also be designed to create increased opportunities for prisoners to find meaningful work on release, and importantly provide improved family connections for prisoners.

Following the closure and sale of Hayes Prison Farm by the former Labor-Green Government, Tasmania has had only one substantial adult prison.

We have not been immune to national trends of increasing prisoner numbers and without another adult prison facility of a contemporary standard and design, managing the challenges associated with a prison environment will be increasingly difficult for the TPS.

Projected Timeframe for Delivery



Key Facts

Under the Hodgman Liberal Government there are more staff, more beds, and more funding for the prison service than ever before.

We have increased staffing levels at the Tasmania Prison Service significantly since coming to government, including more than 50 new Correctional officers since May last year, with an additional 24 new recruits beginning their training in early 2018.

The last two State Budgets have seen us invest considerably in 61 new beds due to start coming online in mid-2018.

The Tasmanian Liberals' Plan



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Cost

\$70 million for the Southern Remand Centre.

\$150 million in the first five years for Stage 1 of the Northern Prison facility.

\$120 million for Stage 2 of the Northern Prison facility.

Labor-Green Record

Labor has not promised even one additional Correctional Officer, they've woefully underestimated the cost of getting police out of courts in the North and North West of the State and their so-called commitment to a Northern Prison is laughably underfunded.

Shamefully, their record in government is no better. Famously claiming he ran the Prisons, the former Greens Corrections Minister, Nick McKim, stood down prison officers and literally sold the farm in a desperate cash grab when he put Hayes Prison Farm on the market.