

Changing Lives – Protecting the community



Reform of Low Security Custody in Queensland

Draft for discussion – not Government policy

A Green Paper

October

08



Queensland Government
Queensland Corrective Services



Minister's foreword

Queensland Corrective Services has been undergoing major reforms in the past four years. We have invested heavily in state of the art infrastructure at our secure correctional centres. We have introduced the most modern corrective services legislation in the country; introduced court ordered parole so that offenders serve 100 percent of their sentence either in custody or the community, and significantly reformed the Probation and Parole service. The next stage of reform is the overhaul of low security custody.

Low security correctional centres, or prison farms, have been operating in Queensland for most of the last century. Traditionally, offenders at those centres have undertaken activities linked to agriculture and farming.

With the growth of Queensland's modern economy, and emerging labour shortages, the Queensland Government needs to equip offenders with skills that will give them their best chance of getting employment in the current job market.

Offenders also need to be able to demonstrate that they are contributing something back to the community.

Building on the success of the Work camps, which is one of Queensland Corrective Services' most successful offender re-integration initiatives, low security correctional centres will change their focus to supporting community service projects. These will benefit offenders by providing them with relevant skills. Most of all, these projects will benefit communities in regional areas by providing a valuable source of labour.

The future of our state is everyone's business. I encourage you to consider the reforms outlined in this Green Paper, and to get involved in our community consultation process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport

What is this Green Paper about?

This Green Paper outlines the Queensland Government's proposed reform to the immediate and long-term operation of low security correctional centres throughout the state. It builds on a major reform program for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), including the commencement of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, large-scale program and services reform, a new Probation and Parole Service and new and upgraded secure correctional centres.

The purpose of this Green Paper is to promote discussion about the proposed changes to the operation of low security facilities in Queensland. Stakeholders are encouraged to consider the changes to the existing model and provide feedback on the questions presented within this paper. These questions may be answered directly, or serve as a prompt for your submission. Responses will inform the government's decisions on the implementation of the proposed Reform of Low Security Custody in Queensland.

How to get involved – submissions

Make a written submission

We encourage stakeholders to make a written submission about the changes that are proposed in this paper. You can comment on anything you think should be an important consideration for the government. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

Submissions can be made in writing:

By post to

Reform of Low Security Custody in Queensland
Green Paper Submission
Queensland Corrective Services
PO Box 1054
Brisbane Qld 4001
Australia

By email to

lowsecurityreform@correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

Attend an information session

Queensland Corrective Services will hold a series of information sessions across the state between now and the end of December.

To register for an information session, or for more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Liaison Officer
Telephone: (07) 3227 6611
Facsimile: (07) 3224 6925

Email: lowsecurityreform@correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

Key dates

Closing date for submissions 31 December 2008

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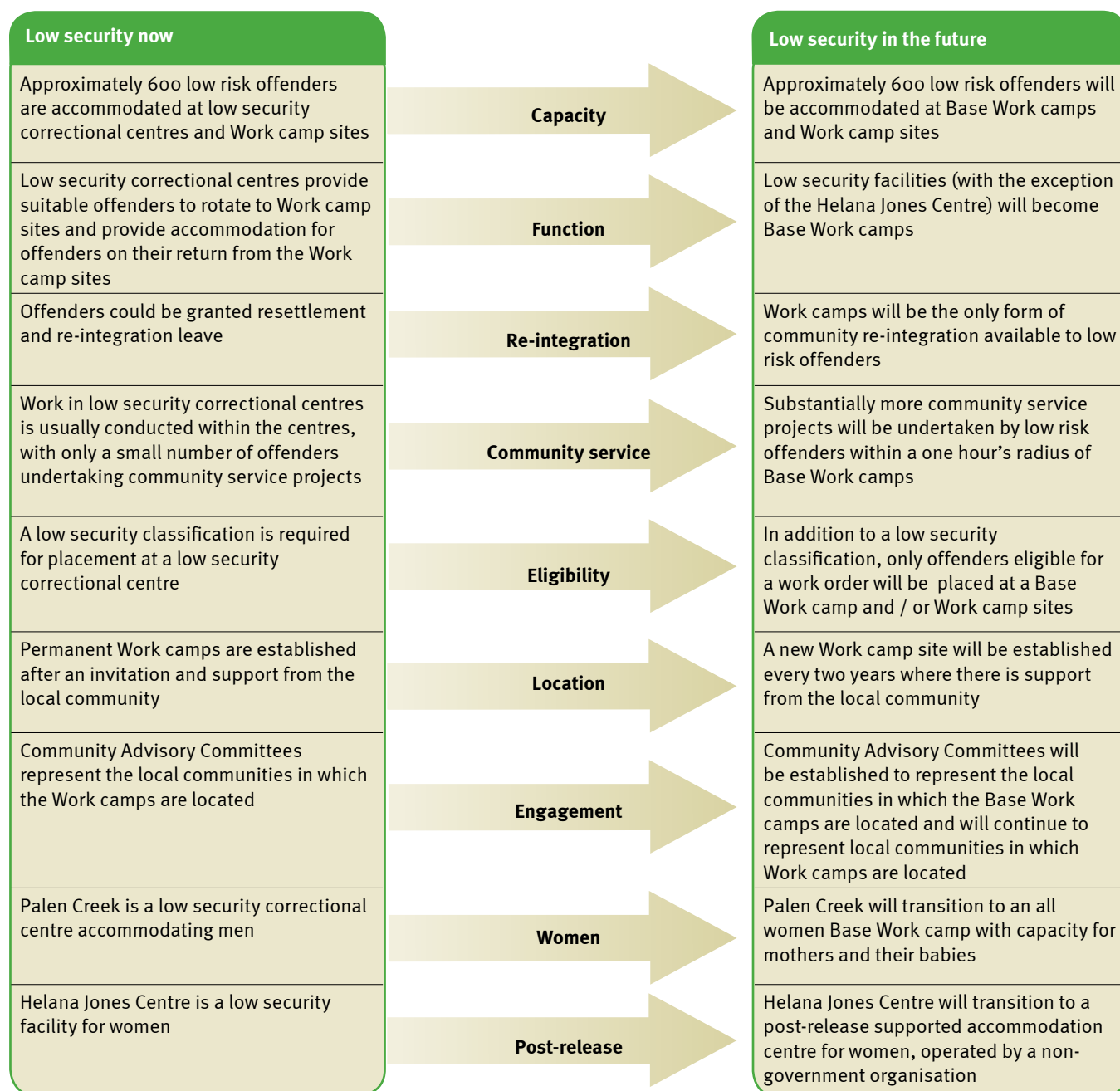
Executive summary

The way ahead – what are the proposed changes to low security?

In 2006, QCS conducted a review to examine the roles and functions of correctional centres in Queensland. The resulting report, *A review of the roles and functions of correctional centres in Queensland – 2006–2015* (the roles and functions review), was published in October 2006.

The roles and functions review put forward a model that **recommended that Work camps be the only non-secure placement option for low risk prisoners**. The roles and functions review recommended that custody options be defined in two categories: either Secure Custody or Work camps. **Accordingly, it is proposed that all low security correctional centres, with the exception of Helana Jones Centre, transition to Base Work camps.**

Summary of proposed changes



Why expand Work camps?

The proposed change from low security centres to Base Work camps will build the capability of Work camps undertaking community service projects. Low risk offenders accommodated at Base Work camps and Work camp sites will be given increased opportunities to participate in meaningful and varied work in the community, as well as opportunities to learn new skills. This will increase their likelihood of re-integration on release.

The roles and functions review recognised that Work camps provide opportunities for low risk offenders to engage in meaningful community based work, which provides significant rehabilitation and reparation benefits. Work camps have been highly successful since their inception in 1990. The first Work camp site was established in 1990 in response to major flooding in Charleville that devastated the region; approximately 100 low risk offenders were sent to the area and assisted in rebuilding the community. By June 1992, ten camps had been established throughout Queensland in remote and regional locations. More recently, the need for community assistance after Cyclone Larry has seen the Work camp concept extended to urban areas with the establishment of the temporary Narpi Work camp site near Mackay.

Presently there are 13 Work camp sites throughout Queensland, providing opportunities for about 124 male and 38 female offenders to work on community service projects that will help them to re-integrate into the community when they are released. In 2007–08, Work camp offenders completed about 103,000 hours of community service, representing over \$1.5 million in value to Queensland communities.

Key Themes – drivers for proposed change

Future expansion

In the short term, the proposed new model for Work camps will assist QCS in managing growing female prisoner numbers by providing additional accommodation options for low risk women offenders until the planned completion of correctional centres for women in Townsville and Gatton. Completion of the women's correctional centre in Townsville will substantially increase the state's capacity for women offenders and will provide adequate capacity for the northern region. With this investment, QCS is entering a new era in which it can deliver dedicated infrastructure, programs and resources that are tailored to the women prisoner population.

Community Engagement

Strengthening partnerships with the community is a key priority for QCS and core to the success of the current Work camp model. In order to achieve the goals of the proposed changes – the successful re-integration of prisoners into the community and the provision of valuable community service – effective partnerships with local people, councils, community organisations, business and benevolent organisations will continue to be essential.

Reparation

Reparation is an important part of offenders rehabilitation. Work camp activities provide offenders with the ability to actively participate in community life and can help offenders to understand the impact of their crimes. The proposed changes seek to expand opportunities for low risk offenders participation in community service projects, to enable offenders to make reparation to the community.

Throughcare

Under the proposed model, Base Work camps will accommodate low risk offenders and will often provide the last placement for offenders before their return to the community. Offenders are provided meaningful and varied work opportunities, learn new skills and are provided opportunities to participate in community life, sporting, educational and social activities. Providing offenders with support during the critical period of transition from custody to independent living in the community has the potential to significantly reduce recidivism.

Security

Under the proposed model only those offenders eligible under the *Corrective Services Act 2006* and classified as low risk will be considered for placement at a Work Base camp and aligned Work camp sites. Only offenders who are assessed as a minimal risk to the community will be selected.

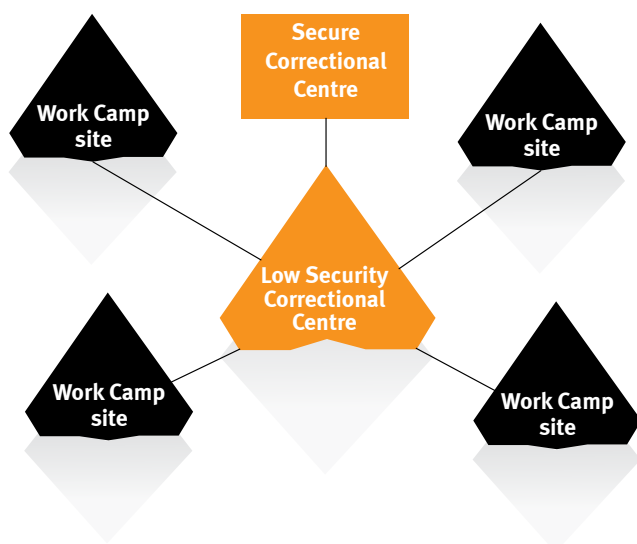
Section 1: What do we currently do?

What is a low security correctional centre?

Queensland’s low security correctional centres hold about 12 per cent of the state’s prisoners. Low security centres have markedly less reliance on physical containment than is the case with secure custody. To be placed in one of QCS’ seven low security centres, offenders require a low security classification and must be assessed as suitable for placement.

Low security centres for male offenders are located in South-East Queensland at Darling Downs, Numinbah and Palen Creek; in Central Queensland at Rockhampton; in North Queensland at Townsville; and in Far North Queensland at Mareeba. Low security beds for women offenders are located in South-East Queensland at Numinbah, in Brisbane City at Albion, and in Townsville. During 2007–08, 632 offenders were accommodated in low security centres across Queensland.

Low security placement is usually the final step before an offender is released to the community. Before their release, offenders are encouraged to develop increased levels of personal responsibility and (as in secure custody) opportunities are provided for their participation in education, work, vocational training and other programs.



Brief history

HM State Farm, Palen Creek was proclaimed a prison farm on 15 November 1934. It was the first prison in the Commonwealth to have absolutely no security measures except for the honour of the prisoners who were selected to go there. Prisoners erected their own buildings and sold produce from gardens they maintained.

State prison farms continued to be established throughout Queensland. In 1940, Numinbah was proclaimed a State Prison Farm; Whitenbah Prison Farm near Nerang operated from 1943 to 1949 and Stone River Prison Farm near Ingham operated from 1944 to 1962.

Who goes to low security?

QCS places offenders in correctional centres that are most appropriate to their level of risk to the community. The general criteria used in the placement of offenders in Queensland are an offender’s likelihood of escaping, and the risk to the community should that offender escape. There are numerous factors taken into consideration when determining security classification and placement, including the nature of the offence, the likelihood of the offender trying to escape, the risk to the community, and the risk to staff, to other offenders and to themselves (institutional risk).

What sort of work do offenders do in low security facilities?

There are two types of industries operating in Queensland's low security correctional centres

- **Service industries** are programs that employ offenders to maintain the self-sufficiency of the correctional centre.
- **Commercial industries** operate on a fee-for-service basis, and include laundry, bakery, textile, agricultural and dairy operations; building and assembly of timber and metal products; and basic assembly and packing, painting and powder coating and mechanical work (see Table 1).

Industries in secure correctional centres provide offenders with meaningful work linked to vocational training, facilitate opportunities for rehabilitation, and increase the chances of offenders gaining employment after their release. QCS places a high priority on ensuring that its commercial industries will benefit the local industry and the Queensland economy. The major emphasis is on the production of goods for export and to provide a replacement for imported goods, or to help markets meet excess demand for certain products. All new business proposals are examined to identify any possible adverse effects on local businesses or jobs.

Challenges for offender re-integration

In contrast, industries in low security facilities currently support a wide range of industries from beef and dairy cattle to agricultural industries that produce a range of crops for both sale and prison consumption (see Table 1). Offenders accommodated in these facilities often engage in highly repetitive labour focused on the maintenance of these industries and are rarely involved in community service projects. The roles and functions review found that the employment of offenders in farming activities has less relevance than it has in the past in preparing offenders for their release into predominately urban communities where demand for farming and agricultural skills is limited.

Table 1: Low security correctional centres and their industries

Low Security Correctional Centre	Dairy	Crops	Livestock	Timber Products	Textile Products	Assembly & Packaging	Bakery	Laundry
Lotus Glen	✓	✓	✓					
Townsville (Men's & Women's)		✓						
Numinbah (Men's & Women's)	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Palen Creek		✓	✓		✓			
Darling Downs	✓	✓	✓					
Capricornia	✓	✓	✓					✓
Helana Jones						✓		

What training do offenders undertake?

Vocational education and training (VET) is an integral part of the management and rehabilitation of offenders in both low security and secure correctional centres. Training focuses on vocational skills that will lead to employment on release and that will address the skill shortages currently being experienced in Queensland and Australia. Offenders who access VET can also gain credit towards numerous training programs on release. Table 2 shows the VET currently offered to offenders in low security facilities.

A study by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (2007) has shown that, for Queensland prisoners who are involved in VET before release, their chances of returning to prison decrease from 32 per cent to 23 per cent.

Table 2: Low Security Centres and VET

Low Security Correctional Centre	Aquaculture	Asset Maintenance	Automotive	Business	Conservation	Construction	Engineering	First aid	Fitness	Horticulture	Hospitality	Information Technology	Rural	Textile Fabrication	Transport & Distribution	Work Readiness	Literacy & Numeracy
Lotus Glen	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓
Townsville (Men's & Women's)					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
Numinbah (Men's & Women's)			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Palen Creek		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Darling Downs		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Capricornia																	
Helana Jones		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓						✓

What is a Work camp?

In addition to low security facilities, low risk offenders may also be accommodated at Work camp sites. Work camps are self contained sites where teams of approximately 12 low risk offenders and assigned QCS supervisors live while they complete local community service projects.

Work camps provide regional communities with a valuable source of labour, while also providing offenders with an opportunity to make reparation to communities, become engaged in the community and gain valuable skills. Work camps are involved directly with local communities by providing them with additional resources for local events including rodeos, equestrian events and regional shows and restoration of significant landmarks and buildings of historical importance.

Brief History

Work camps were founded as part of an emergency response effort to assist the people of Charleville clean up and rebuild their community after floods devastated the township in 1990. A team of about 100 offenders were transported by corrective services staff to Charleville to assist and the program was so successful that on 23 May 1991, the Work Outreach Camps (WORC) program officially commenced. Charleville became the first permanent Work camp site to be trialled in the State. The main objectives of the trial were the rehabilitation of low risk offenders and to provide assistance to rural and remote communities on locally based projects. Building on the success at Charleville the Work camps program was promoted to rural western communities as a trial and offered to interested communities. By June 1992 the program had grown from a single site in Charleville, to a further 10 Work camps operating throughout Queensland.

How are offenders selected for a Work camp placement?

Only offenders classified as low risk and who are made the subject of a work order (see box below) are sent to Work camps. Typically offenders placed at Work camps are aged between 18 and 45 years and have been convicted of property, drug, motor vehicle, traffic or related offences. Many are at the end of their sentence and close to being released back into the community.

A **work order** is granted to offenders who are eligible and assessed as suitable for placement at a Work camp. A work order specifies the conditions under which offenders can engage with the community in projects and activities.

Eligibility

Under section 66 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, a **work order** is a written order transferring a prisoner from a corrective services facility to a **Work camp**.

A work order may include the conditions QCS reasonably considers necessary to help the prisoner re-integrate into the community, to ensure prisoner good conduct and to stop the prisoner from committing an offence.

A prisoner is **not eligible for a work order** if they have one or any of the following – any outstanding charges not dealt with by the court; an unexecuted warrant; a deportation or extradition order; a pending appeal against conviction – or if the prisoner has been convicted of a sex offence.

Suitability

If an offender is eligible for a work order, then their suitability for a Work camp is assessed.

To earn the right to stay at a Work camp, offenders must demonstrate positive behaviour and attitudes while working at the camp. Their behaviour is monitored by supervising Corrective Services officers and they are required to submit to frequent random drug-testing for illicit substances. Local police also play an important role in each camp's operation. Offenders with sexual offending backgrounds are ineligible to participate.

Work camp sites

There are currently 13 Work camp sites (11 for men, 2 for women) in Queensland, from as far south as Dirranbandi, near the New South Wales border, to as far north as Innisfail. The Work camps are annexed to regional correctional centres and in 2007–08 they accommodated, on average, 124 low risk male offenders and 38 low risk female offenders. The first women's Work camp opened in Warwick in 1995 and a second women's Work camp was commissioned at Bowen in 2007.

Map of correctional centres and aligned Work camp sites



Work camps are either temporary or permanent. In early 2008, there were up to 100 low risk offenders assisting shire and regional councils in areas including Emerald, Charleville, Beaudesert and Mackay.

Table 3 shows how the state’s 13 Work camps are currently aligned to local correctional centres and councils.

Table 3: Low security centres and aligned Work camps and councils

Low security correctional centre	Work camp	Council
Darling Downs	Mitchell Charleville Dirranbandi St George	Roma Regional Council Murweh Shire Council Balonne Shire Council
Capricornia	Clermont Blackall Springsure	Isaac Regional Council Blackall-Tambo Regional Council Central Highlands Regional Council
Townsville	Boulia Julia Creek Winton Bowen Women’s	Boulia Shire Council McKinlay Shire Council Winton Shire Council Whitsunday Regional Council
Brisbane Women’s	Warwick Women’s	Southern Downs Regional Council
Lotus Glen	Innisfail	Cassowary Coast Regional Council

“To work in the community is very satisfying and the appreciation they show makes every project special”
Sarah, Women’s Work camp offender

How does the community nominate which projects are undertaken?

Regional and shire councils are the sponsors of Work camp activities within each Work camp community. Community Advisory Committees (CACs) represent the local communities in which the Work camps are located. Each Work camp has a CAC that is made up of local residents. It is the role of the CAC to nominate priorities for community service projects, which are then approved by the General Manager of the aligned correctional centre.

It is important that each CAC has significant local government representation. To help the committee plan, manage and assign priorities to projects, it needs to have access to important information from the shire or regional council, on matters such as town planning and finance.

The CACs role is to:

- provide information and advice about the views and concerns of the local community
- identify, assess and prioritise community service projects
- provide links to the community that will assist offenders in their rehabilitation and reparation, and
- promote effective relationships between the community and the relevant correctional centre.

Generally, the CAC should have a range of members who represent the diversity of the community. General Managers at aligned regional correctional centres approve the membership.

A committee's membership may include:

- shire or regional council staff or elected representatives
- police
- local business operators
- graziers or land owners
- community or service clubs
- churches
- non-government organisations or community groups
- educational institutions
- Members of Parliament
- union representatives
- Work camp field supervisors, and
- relevant people of standing in the local community.

What are the benefits of Work camps?

Work camps present a positive correctional experience that not only puts low risk offenders to work – providing them with important opportunities to make reparation to the community and develop skills and a work ethic – but also provides considerable benefits to the people of regional and rural Queensland. Work camps ensure valued community projects, which would not otherwise be completed due to labour shortages within the community, are completed and also provide further employment opportunities to community members who assist in supervising community project work.

Work camp offenders benefit by developing social skills, a work ethic and teamwork skills, as well as employable skills in a variety of areas such as landscaping, construction, welding, painting and concreting. Work camp offenders may also undertake essential shopping and participate in sporting events and community functions. These experiences help offenders to make a successful return to the community after their release.

“All in all it is good to have done something for others and to have appreciation come directly from the people you have done the work for. I think the work scheme is completely worthwhile for both inmates and the community”

Greg, Work camp offender

Examples of Work camp community service projects conducted in 2007–2008



Case Study 1

Warwick Women's Work camp

The Work camp's assistance to the Warwick community during the equine influenza outbreak at the Eventing World Cup Qualifier at Morgan Park

Morgan Park is 400 hectares of native Australian bushland at Warwick with facilities for polocrosse, horse trials, drag racing, car racing, motocross and carriage driving. The Morgan Park equestrian facilities have been recognised by the Queensland Government as the best in their field in the state and the grounds are now officially known as the State Equestrian Centre – Polocrosse and Eventing.

The polocrosse grounds offer accommodation for 400 horses, full canteen and bar facilities, corporate entertaining area, floodlit arenas, huge playing fields and grandstands. The extensive grounds include a cross-country course at the horse trial grounds, complete with over 100 jumps, 116 hectares of bushland and walking tracks.

Initially the Warwick Women's Work camp offenders were required to assist with the preparation of the grounds and course for the World Cup Eventing Qualifier in 2007. This is a major equine event that goes for two days and draws international and national competitors to the Morgan Park eventing course.

Preparation for the event began in July 2007 with Work camp offenders painting jumps and sign-writing for them; spray-painting hard landscaping features; planting vegetation around jumps; clearing debris from the course; erecting brush and bunting to define the course; erecting dressage arenas; and cleaning and maintaining amenities and the canteen area.

However, by Day 2 of the event, the site had been declared a quarantine zone, with 200 people and their horses locked down for four weeks. The Work camp offenders worked tirelessly around the clock carrying out a range of activities, including preparing meals, cleaning and maintaining amenities, shovelling manure and assisting with decontamination procedures. Corrective Services staff organised food donations and led the offenders in operating a canteen to feed everyone on site.

Officers also joined the official Crisis Management Team working with representatives of government and community agencies to coordinate life within the quarantine zone. The services provided by the Work camp during the crisis were praised by the local community as they formed part of efforts that helped to contain the spread of the equine influenza, thus helping to protect a multi-million dollar industry.

After the crisis, the Warwick community were keen to hold the planned two-day event, and so the women offenders remained and helped with directing traffic, cleaning amenities and catering (including the preparation of the main dinner for over 200 people).

This outstanding example of services to the community won the 2008 Work Camp Award for Best Contribution to any Community Event or Community Service.



Case Study 2

Springsure Work camp

The Springsure Heritage Hospital Refurbishment Project

The Springsure Work Camp has put significant effort into resurrecting the Old Springsure Hospital as a local historic site and tourist attraction.

Participating Work camp offenders performed more than 2000 hours of labour at the site. They restumped the heritage-listed building, installed new floors, landscaped the grounds and concreted walkways.

The project involved replacing the entire veranda surrounding the hospital (with new bush timber posts, and the inclusion of ramps and concrete footpaths necessary for disabled access), the levelling and replacement of bush timber posts of the separate operating theatre, replacement of gutters and extensive ground works.

Traditional building techniques and materials were used in keeping with the building's heritage values. Work camp offenders continue to contribute to the site's maintenance.

This outstanding example of services to the community won the 2008 Work Camp Award for the Most Effective Single Maintenance Project.

Section 2: What reforms are proposed?

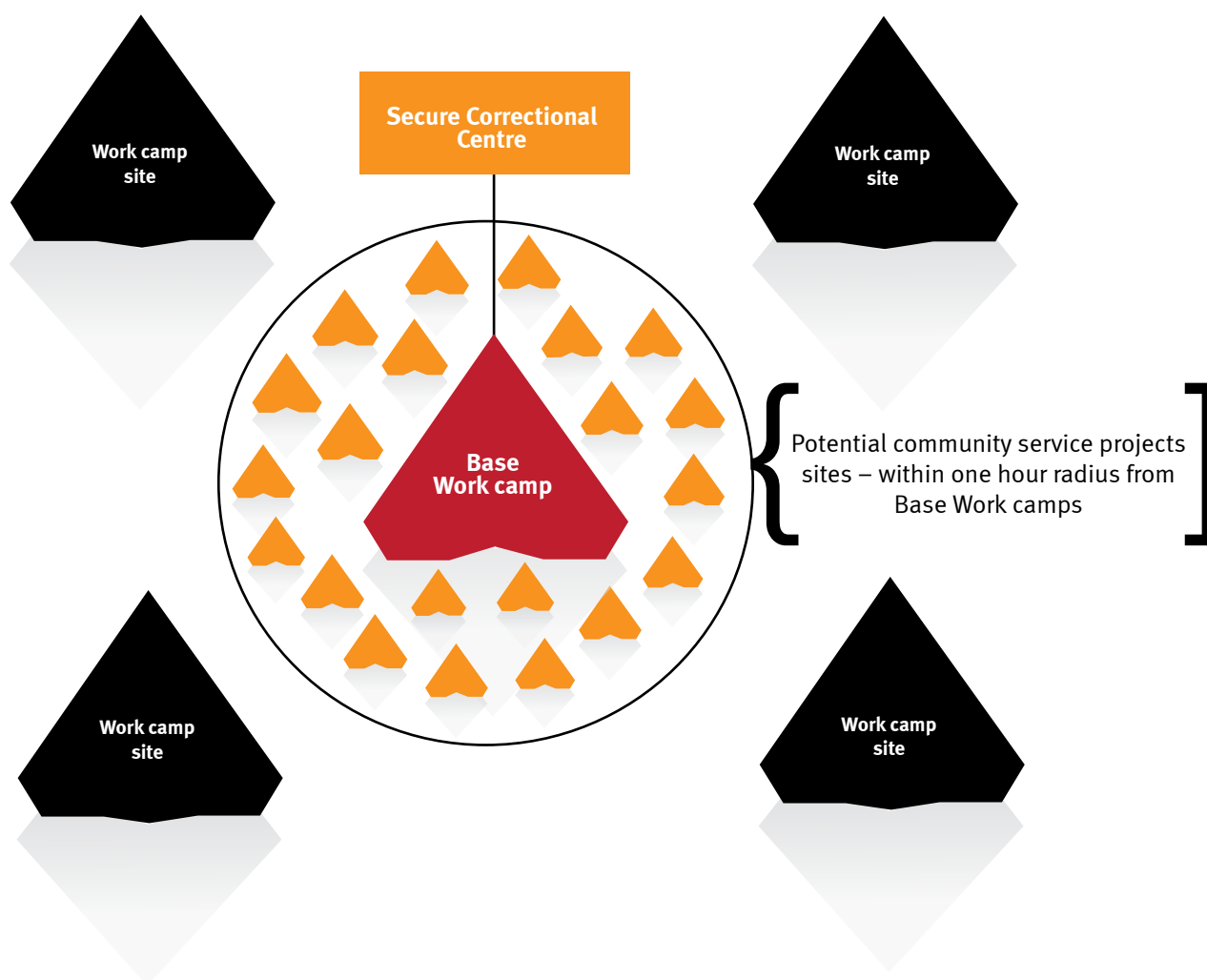
How will the proposed changes alter what we currently do?

What is a Base Work camp?

Under the proposed changes Base Work camps will coordinate community service projects, and will provide services and stand-down accommodation for offenders returning from Work camps on a rotational basis. Existing Work camp sites will be aligned to a Base Work camp.

In an extension of the current Work camps model, **Base Work camps will deliver services to communities within a one-hour travelling radius of the centre.** Currently there are minimal opportunities for low security offenders who reside at low security facilities to participate in community service projects.

As with the current model, offenders will be escorted from Work camps to various community service sites by QCS staff or QCS-approved sponsors. Offenders and staff will return to the Work camps from the project sites at the completion of the daily requirements of the project, and to the Base Work camp at the overall completion of the community service project.



There will be an increased emphasis on Base Work camps supporting re-integration through the delivery of vocational education and training (VET) and programs focused on transitional support such as the Transitions Program and the Transitional Support Service.

Consistent with the *Prisoner Employment Policy and Action Plan for 2008–2011*, QCS is committed to refocusing existing rural sector based industries run out of local security facilities to meet market demand and skills shortages, and to optimise an offender’s employment opportunities on release. The viability of retaining existing industries will be assessed and those industries providing minimal benefits to either offenders or the community will not be continued from Base Work camps.

At the Base Work camps, offenders will continue to have access to visits, sentence management, health and medical and other services, with a focus on pre-release and transitions programs and drug treatment programs.

What is the Transitions Program?

The **Transitions Program** is a release preparation program that gives offenders an opportunity to address their practical resettlement needs before they are released, through the provision of planning assistance, emotional support and links to appropriate community agencies. Those offenders not eligible for the Transitions Program, including short-term offenders, are able to access the Transitional Support Service, which involves the completion of a Transition Needs Assessment and the provision of appropriate referral or support information.

How will offenders be selected for a Base Work camp or Work camp site?

In a change to the current system of placement to low security centres, offenders will be assessed to determine their eligibility and suitability for placement at a Base Work camp **on arrival** at a secure correctional centre after sentencing. Sentenced offenders who have been accommodated in secure custody for longer periods, and who meet the eligibility criteria and are assessed as suitable, will also be given the opportunity to progress to a Base Work camp.

Under the proposed model, offenders will transfer from a secure facility to a Base Work camp (or a Work camp site) after being placed on a **work order**. A work order will be the only means of transferring low risk offenders out of a secure facility to reside at a Base Work camp or Work camp site. Currently, offenders are transferred to Work camps, but not low security correctional centres, by way of a work order. Under the new

model, all low risk offenders accommodated at Base Work camps will require a work order. This will enable offenders to participate in community service projects aligned to that Base Work camp.

In a managed transition consisting of close initial supervision by Corrective Services officers and or trained community supervisors, an offender’s readiness to work at the more remote Work camp sites will be determined based on their behaviour at the Base Work camp. At remote Work camp sites, as with the current model, supervision will be reduced as the offender demonstrates that they are more trustworthy and reliable.

QCS will use assessment tools and high levels of supervision at Base Work camp to ensure a minimum of risk to the community. Offenders who are assessed as a high risk to the community (such as sex offenders, serious violent offenders, or those with high likelihood of escape), or as a high risk to themselves and/or to other offenders, will not be considered for placement at a Base Work camp or Work camp site (see box below).

Assessment of security classification for Work camp placement

Nature of offence

Offenders who present a high risk to the community, such as sex offenders and repeat violent offenders, will not be placed at a Base Work camp or Work camp site

Escape risk

Offenders who are assessed as being likely to escape will not be placed at a Base Work camp or Work camp site

Risk to community

Offenders who are assessed as having a high likelihood of re-offending, and therefore present a risk to the community, will not be placed at a Base Work camp or Work camp site

Institutional risk

Offenders who are assessed as being a risk to others, themselves or correctional staff will not be placed at a Base Work camp or Work camp site

What will change for women offenders?

Queensland has experienced rapid growth in the number of women offenders in the prison system over the last decade. As a result, QCS is now in a position to deliver dedicated infrastructure and a range of correctional responses that are tailored to this population.

Currently, all South-East Queensland low security centres for women offenders are linked to Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre. This is to facilitate rehabilitation and transition from high to low security centres and then to the community. Women offenders accommodated in low security centres are encouraged to develop increased levels of personal responsibility and, as in secure custody, opportunities are provided for them to take part in education, work, vocational training and other programs.

With female prisoner numbers increasing, there are women currently residing in high security facilities, who are suitable and eligible for placement at a low security facility, if a bed were available. It is therefore proposed that a dedicated women's Base Work camp will be established at Palen Creek.

Palen Creek will provide an additional 120 beds for women classified as low risk and has the highest standard of accommodation of the low security facilities in South East Queensland. This centre will require minimal change to accommodate mothers and babies, thereby recognising the need to provide women with appropriate rehabilitation and accommodate them in an environment that acknowledges their diverse characteristics, needs and life experiences.

This arrangement will be strengthened as a result of plans to expand the number of women's Work camps. This will provide additional opportunities for low risk women offenders to make reparation to the community by being employed on meaningful projects in regional communities.

In addition, the transition of Helana Jones Centre to a post-release supported accommodation facility for women in South-East Queensland is proposed. This will assist to address a critical shortage of appropriate accommodation in the community for women exiting custody. Unstable accommodation can be a significant factor in undermining an offender's prospects of successfully re-integrating in the community and not committing further offences. Low risk offenders currently residing at the Helana Jones Centre will be transferred to Palen Creek.

Leave arrangements

Work camps will become the central form of re-integration into the community while offenders are in custody. Re-integration and resettlement leave of absence will be discontinued.

While offenders are at Work camps, they have supervised access to the community and are encouraged to undertake essential shopping and participate in community events. Participation in Work camps will be a significant indicator of an offender's positive progression through the correctional system. The low level of security at Work camps and the frequent interaction with the community mean that offenders will be in a strong position to demonstrate their trustworthiness and rehabilitation. It is likely that participation in a Work camp will be viewed positively by Parole Boards when considering applications by offenders for parole.

The *Corrective Services Act 2006* will be amended to remove re-integration and resettlement leave provisions.

Discussion Points

Do you have any comments on the way the proposed reforms to low security custody will affect your community?

Do you have any comments on the way the proposed reforms to low security custody will impact on offenders?

What do you see are the potential advantages or concerns or risks for the community under the proposed changes to low security custody? How could these be addressed?

What sort of community service projects in your local area would you like low risk offenders to participate in?

Which non-government agencies could be identified in your community as potential sponsors of community service projects?

Do you have any comments on the way the proposed realignment of Palen Creek Correctional Centre and Helana Jones Centre will affect women offenders?

Are there any other details about the proposed changes to low security custody that you would like more information on?

Section 3: Why is reform needed?

The success of the current Work camps model – time to expand

Work camps are one of QCS' most successful offender rehabilitation initiatives providing offenders with opportunities for meaningful work, skill development and reparation. It has been estimated that offenders involved in the program contributed about 103,000 hours of labour valued at almost \$1.5 million dollars to the community in the last financial year.

It is recognised that Work camps provide a broad range of benefits to the community, to government and to offenders. For over 17 years, Work camps have:

- helped to develop engagement between offenders and the community
- contributed to building regional towns and developing the capacity of local communities to undertake community projects and activities, and
- engaged offenders in meaningful work and skill development that is appropriate for employment in today's workplaces.

The value to offenders – the three R's

Work camps present a **positive community experience** for low risk offenders preparing for release to the community or parole. Offenders have the opportunity to learn, practice and consolidate personal development, vocational and social skills vital to:

- making **reparation** to the community
- their **rehabilitation**
- **re-integration** into the community.

Future expansion – managing the rapid growth in women prisoners

In 2006–07, the average daily prisoner population was 5649 – the largest in Queensland's history. Recently there has been some reduction in the rate of growth because of the introduction of court-ordered parole, the new Probation and Parole Service and the establishment of Probation and Parole offices in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. However, Queensland's prison population has more than doubled since 1993, with a further significant growth expected over the next 10 years as the state's population continues to rise.

In light of this growing offender population, it is essential for community and offender safety that adequate infrastructure is in place. QCS manages 10 high security correctional centres, as well as low security centres and Work camps. The growth in prisoner numbers has resulted in high occupancy levels in existing secure centres, particularly women's centres in South-East Queensland.

To manage this growth, the Queensland Government has invested in a major capital works program, including the construction of a new women's correctional centre in Townsville and the development of a new correctional precinct at Gatton. Other significant capital works include the recently completed Brisbane Correctional Centre; expansion of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre; redevelopment and expansion of the Townsville Men's and Townsville Women's correctional centres; and planning for an expansion of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre at Mareeba. The South-East Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton will be the next major prison development in Queensland. Pre-construction work for the site began in January 2008.

It is anticipated that in future years the number of Work camps and community service projects will increase as a result of this growth.

In the short term, the proposed change to the offender profile at Palen Creek Correctional Centre, converting it to an all women Base Work camp, will help QCS to manage growing female prisoner numbers. Palen Creek will provide an additional 120 beds for women classified as low risk. Male offenders will be relocated to low security facilities currently operating below capacity.

In addition the change in function to the Helana Jones Centre to a post-release supported accommodation facility for women in South-East Queensland will assist to address a critical shortage of appropriate accommodation in the community for women exiting custody. Unstable accommodation can be a significant factor in undermining an offender's prospects of successfully re-integrating in the community and not committing further offences.

Enhancing throughcare

Encompassing rehabilitation and re-integration, throughcare is an evidence-based and integrated approach to offender management across all areas of corrective service delivery in Queensland. By focusing on providing offenders with opportunities to:

- gain skills
- address the causes of their offending through programs; and
- re-establish links with their families and community.

The Queensland Government is giving offenders a chance to change their lives for the better. **Effective throughcare can significantly reduce re-offending and enhance community safety.**

Throughcare begins when offenders first enter the custodial correctional system and continues after they are released into the community. Offenders often experience multiple social and economic disadvantages before and after their release from prison. Disadvantages include:

- a history of abuse
- institutionalisation
- isolation from their family of origin and/or fragmented relationships in later life; and
- poor education outcomes, leading to limited employment opportunities or unemployment, and welfare dependency, homelessness and a lack of or poor social support.

Incarceration provides a unique opportunity for behaviour to be stabilised, for offenders to be rehabilitated and for improved health and social outcomes to be achieved for both offenders and the community. Correctional centres provide consistent, timely and targeted interventions to deal with the causes of offending.

Low security facilities in Queensland currently support a wide range of industries from beef and dairy cattle to agricultural industries that produce a range of crops for both sale and prison consumption. Offenders accommodated in these facilities are engaged in highly repetitive labour focused on the maintenance of these industries, and are not developing skills that will assist them in finding employment when they are released.

In the future, offenders at Base Work camps will participate in community service projects to gain real world employment and training opportunities – in turn increasing their re-integration prospects and meeting the demands of Queensland's job market. Projects in which offenders can obtain relevant skills that are relevant to Queensland's modern economy will be prioritised.

Base Work camps will usually accommodate low risk offenders who are about to return to the community on parole or at the end of their sentence. Here, offenders will be given meaningful and varied opportunities to learn new skills and participate in community, sporting, educational and social activities. Giving offenders support during the transition from custody to independent living in the community can significantly reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend when they are released.

Increasing opportunities for community engagement

Strengthening partnerships with the community is a key priority for QCS. Effective partnerships with local people, councils, community organisations and businesses are essential for the success of the proposed changes.

From the inception of the Work camp program in Queensland QCS has needed to work with local communities to understand, and help them meet, the issues and challenges confronting them. With the establishment of CACs QCS currently engages with local communities at Work camp sites to learn, first hand, about their concerns and the community services they require to improve community life. In turn QCS advises communities of the potential benefits of allowing low risk offenders to participate in community life.

“Major projects and infrastructure that were well beyond the capacity and resources of small community groups and organisations have been realised due to the expertise and availability of the Work camp. Any initial concerns by communities were soon dismissed as residents enjoyed the benefits of the wide ranging projects. Work camp participants and organisers are now welcome and highly regarded members of our community”

Chris Blanch, CEO, Murweh Shire Council

QCS is committed to establishing and maintaining robust partnerships with communities to ensure the success of Work camps and soon to be established Base Work camps. It is essential that communities are able to raise concerns, seek information and get quick answers to questions about the operations of a local Work camp or a Base Work camp. For QCS, it is important that there are opportunities to respond to any concerns from the community as early as possible. Most importantly, the Work camp projects must be identified by the communities themselves. This ensures that projects accurately target the needs of the community.

Expanding opportunities for offender reparation to communities

The Work camp model will expand opportunities for low risk offenders to undertake community service projects that will make a difference to Queensland’s communities. Under the reforms, as with current Work camp sites, CACs will be established at each Base Work camp, and following consultation with the CAC, new community service projects will be established within a one hour’s radius of all Base Work camps.

In addition, every two years, a new Work camp site will be established. As part of offenders’ rehabilitation, it is important for them to be able to show that they can make a positive contribution to the community.

Work camps increase the chances of offenders successfully re-integrating into the community by providing them with opportunities to be active and productive community members. For the community, the benefits from sponsoring a Work camp can be great. Work camps support local economies through the purchase of local produce and through non-competitive provision of labour. Many of the projects completed by Work camp offenders would not otherwise be possible because of limited resources and/or a lack of volunteers to complete the work. Work camp offenders provide valuable labour to regional communities, particularly in times of skill shortages.

Ensuring community safety

A priority for the Queensland Government is to protect the community through the safe and humane containment of offenders, and to provide rehabilitation opportunities to help offenders get their lives back on track. At the end of July 2008, there were 5571 offenders in QCS correctional centres. It is estimated that over 50 per cent of offenders in custody were unemployed at the time of their arrest and 75 per cent had an education level of Year 10 or below.

It is normal for communities to initially feel uncertain about the appropriateness of offenders living and working in the local area. However, communities over time often come to accept and value the contributions of Work camps. Work camps provide valuable assistance to communities and, in turn, offenders develop a sense of pride in the contributions they are making.

Only those offenders eligible under the *Corrective Services Act 2006* and classified as low risk will be considered for placement at Base Work camps and aligned Work camp sites. Offenders who are assessed as being likely to escape, or who present a high risk to the community, such as sex offenders and repetitive violent offenders, are not placed at Work camps.

There will be an increased emphasis on the supervision and assessment of Work camp offenders to ensure that appropriate attitudes and behaviours are maintained and to minimise any risk to the community. Information exchange between QCS Work camp staff and QCS intelligence staff, local police, CAC’s and the Probation and Parole Service will be crucial, and professional training will be provided for Work camp supervisors, community project supervisors and staff.

Section 4: Next steps – an invitation for stakeholder feedback

Make a written submission

Submissions are invited in response to this Green Paper. The Queensland Government will take responses into account when making its final decision about the proposed Reform of Low Security Custody in Queensland. You are encouraged to consider carefully the proposed changes and provide written feedback on all elements of the model. You may also wish to register your interest in attending an information session.

You can comment on anything you think should be an important consideration for government. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

Submissions are due on or before **31 December 2008**.

Submissions can be made in writing:

By post to

Reform of Low Security Custody in Queensland
Green Paper Submission
Queensland Corrective Services
PO Box 1054
Brisbane Qld 4001
Australia

By email to

lowsecurityreform@correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

Attend an information session

Queensland Corrective Services will hold a series of information sessions across the state between now and the end of December.

To register for an information session, or for more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Liaison Officer

Telephone: (07) 3227 6611

Facsimile: (07) 3224 6925

Email: lowsecurityreform@correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

Key dates

Closing date for submissions 31 December 2008

Glossary of terms

Chief Executive: The most senior officer of Queensland Corrective Services – current title is Director-General.

Classification: Prisoners are classified as maximum, high or low security according to their risk of escaping, their risk to the community, and the risk they pose within the corrective services facility. A prisoner’s classification determines his or her placement and management within the corrective services system.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC): A committee that represents the local community in which a Work camp is located. Each Work camp has a CAC that is made up of local residents. It is the role of the CAC to nominate priorities for community service projects, which are then approved by the General Manager of the aligned correctional centre.

Community-based supervision order: A court order such as a community service order, fine option order, intensive correction order or probation order.

Community service order: An order made by a court directing an offender to work in the community under direction for a stated period of time.

Community risk: An offender’s likelihood of re-offending and the effect that such re-offending is likely to have on the community.

Director-General: See “Chief Executive”.

Escape risk: The likelihood that a prisoner will attempt to escape or abscond from custody.

General Manager: The most senior officer at a correctional centre.

Institutional risk: The risk a prisoner poses to other persons, to themselves and to facilities in the correctional environment. This type of risk may include assaulting other prisoners or correctional staff, sexually predatory behaviour, using illicit drugs, riotous behaviour and other dangerous activities.

Intensive correction order: An order made by a court that allows an offender to remain in the community under supervision, perform community service and report to a community corrections officer.

Low security correctional centre: A corrective services facility with minimal security systems for accommodating prisoners who do not pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

Offender: A sentenced prisoner either held in custody or supervised by the Probation and Parole Service.

Parole Boards: Independent statutory bodies appointed by the Governor in Council to make decisions on prisoners applying for parole. Boards also monitor the progress of prisoners granted parole and make decisions about the amendment, suspension or cancellation of these orders.

Parole order: An order made by a Parole Board that allows a prisoner to serve the remainder of his/her sentence under supervision in the community. Parole is the only form of early release available to all prisoners.

Prisoner: A person who is remanded in custody or sentenced to a term of imprisonment by a court.

Probation: An order made by a court that allows an offender to remain in the community under supervision and report to a Probation and Parole officer.

Probation and Parole Service: Introduced in August 2006, the Probation and Parole Service has the role of assisting courts and Parole Boards to assess whether offenders are suitable for community-based orders; enforcing the conditions of court and Parole Board orders; and protecting the community by helping offenders to successfully complete their orders.

Re-integration leave: An order that involves a decreased level of supervision of an offender in the community and can be granted to an offender who has been placed on a work order and is located at a Work camp. Will be discontinued.

Resettlement leave: An order that involves a decreased level of supervision of an offender whose period of imprisonment is of 8 years or more duration in the community and is granted to an offender by the Queensland Parole Board. Will be discontinued.

Secure facility: A prison with a perimeter that is designed to prevent the escape of a prisoner.

Throughcare: The coordinated and integrated approach to the management of people under the supervision of corrective services from their first point of contact with QCS to their successful re-integration into the community. Begins when offenders first enter the correctional system and continues after they are released into the community.

Transfer: The movement of a prisoner between corrective services facilities.

Transitions Program: A release preparation program that gives offenders an opportunity to address their practical resettlement needs before they are released, through the provision of planning assistance, emotional support and links to appropriate community agencies.

Transitional Support Service: Those offenders not eligible for the Transitions Program, including short-term offenders, are able to access the Transitional Support Service, which involves the completion of a Transition Needs Assessment and the provision of appropriate referral or support information.

Visitor: A person other than a prisoner who enters a corrective services facility, including a personal visitor (including children) to a prisoner, a legal visitor, a service provider, corrective services staff and public servants.

Vocational Education and Training (VET): The activity of arranging and administering a formal educational program and vocational education and training. Includes teaching literacy and numeracy skills to offenders, as well as secondary and tertiary education.

Warrant: A document issued by a court directing an officer to take certain action. May be a warrant of apprehension, directing that a person be arrested and brought before a court, or a warrant of commitment, directing that a person be arrested and imprisoned.

Work camp: Accommodation for low risk offenders, annexed to the closest correctional centre. Work camps are either temporary or permanent. Permanent Work camps are only in established areas where there has been a specific invitation and support from the local community, and are only established after community consultation. Work crews from temporary Work camps can be quickly deployed to assist a local community. Once the need for assistance is reduced, the offenders return to their respective correctional centre and/or regular duties at a permanent camp.

Work order: A work order may be granted to a prisoner who is eligible and assessed as suitable for placement at a Work camp to undertake community service. A work order must be granted for a prisoner to be transferred to a Work camp.

Appendix: Proposed changes to low security correctional centres

Southern Region		
Palen Creek Correctional Centre (PCCC) Centre		
Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>Situated approximately 100 kilometres south of Brisbane in the rural community of Rathdowney.</p> <p>Established as the first low security prison in the Commonwealth. Offenders were responsible for erecting their own buildings and maintaining gardens, from which they sold the produce.</p> <p>In 1937, there was a daily average of 23 male offenders. Currently the built capacity of the farm is 120 male offenders.</p> <p>Managed by and linked to Wolston Correctional Centre in Brisbane.</p> <p>Industries include cattle grazing (a mixed herd of about 300 beef cattle), and growing chillies and farm produce, including vegetables, fruit and eggs, which supply the centre's kitchens. Also a rag industry workshop, where old clothes are prepared and recycled for industrial use.</p>	<p>Transition PCCC to an all-women low security centre ahead of the changes that will see all low security centres in Queensland become Base Work camps.</p> <p>Redesignation as a Base Work camp for women, with capacity for mothers and their babies.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaudesert • Kooralbyn • Jimboomba • Rathdowney • Canungra • Boonah • Kalbar. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p> <p>There is a need to provide women with appropriate rehabilitation and accommodate them in a culturally sensitive environment that acknowledges their diverse characteristics, needs and life experiences.</p> <p>PCCC currently has the highest standard of accommodation infrastructure of the low security centres in South-East Queensland and is considered the most appropriate accommodation for women.</p> <p>The quality of the accommodation and services at PCCC allows for a greater scope of accommodation to be considered; for example, mothers and babies could be accommodated in the relatively modern accommodation design with minimal fit-out and therefore limited additional cost.</p> <p>The transition to a Base Work camp for women helps QCS to manage the growth in prisoner numbers, by providing additional accommodation options for low risk offenders.</p>

Southern Region

Numinbah Correctional Centre (NCC)

Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>A low security prison housing male and female offenders on a 700 hectare reserve 100 kilometres south of Brisbane in the Gold Coast Hinterland.</p> <p>Designed to accommodate 104 male offenders in separate rooms and, in an annex of the main building, 25 female offenders. The women's unit was established in October 1997.</p> <p>The male prison population are annexed to Darling Downs Correctional Centre and the female population to Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre.</p> <p>Provides a wide range of educational and vocational programs, and arts, crafts, sporting and recreational activities. Prison industries include dairying (support to processor Paul's), cropping (rye grass, plantain and millet for centre use), rag cutting (for St Vincent de Paul Society) and recycling (voluntary arrangement with Lions Recycle for Sight Australia Inc.).</p>	<p>Redesignation to a Base Work camp, with the capacity to hold 129 low risk offenders.</p> <p>There is potential for the offender profile of this Base Work camp to change, should South-East Queensland experience capacity issues.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfers Paradise • Nerang • Mudgeeraba • Springbrook. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p>

Southern Region		
Darling Downs Correctional Centre (DDCC)		
Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>The Darling Downs is a farming region on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range in southern Queensland.</p> <p>DDCC is a low security facility located about 15 kilometres south-west of the city of Toowoomba. The centre has a capacity of 140 male offenders in self-contained accommodation units.</p> <p>All offenders are required to work and develop work skills to use on release. Under local procedure, on arrival, as part of centre induction, all offenders are to be automatically employed as utility workers reporting to the manual training trade instructor.</p> <p>Each offender’s first 7 days are allocated to the assessment of their work ethic and skills, to determine their future employment and accommodation suitability.</p> <p>Employment is available in a number of areas including offender services, maintenance of building and grounds, and working in the centre’s modern dairy and farm. The centre is heavily involved with the local community and supports groups such as Landcare and Clean Up Australia, as well as a number of local charities.</p>	<p>DDCC redesignated as a Base Work camp for male low risk offenders, with a 140 bed capacity.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Because of the existing staffing structure and available infrastructure, the Base Work camp will continue its current role in managing Work camps at Charleville, Mitchell, Dirranbandi and St George.</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toowoomba • Jondaryan • Oakey • Kingsthorpe • Goombungee • Crows Nest • Highfields • Millmerran. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p>

Central Region

Capricornia Correctional Centre (CCC) Farm

Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>CCC is located 20 kilometres north of Rockhampton. The centre provides facilities for remand, reception and sentenced offenders, with a total capacity of 498 male offenders.</p> <p>The centre has secure and residential accommodation for high security offenders and a farm complex for low risk offenders.</p> <p>Industries include dairy, bakery, contracts, laundry, metal fabrication and joinery.</p>	<p>CCC Farm redesignated as a Base Work camp (for males).</p> <p>The Base Work camp at Capricornia will have a capacity of 86 beds.</p> <p>Because of the existing staffing structure and available infrastructure, the Base Work camp at CCC will continue its current role in managing Work camps at Clermont, Springsure and Blackall.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caves • Keppel Sands • Yeppoon • Emu Park • Bangalee • Byfield • Marlborough • Gracemere • Stanwell • Mt Morgan • Rockhampton. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p>

Northern Region		
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre (LGCC) Farm		
Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>LGCC is located 25 kilometres south of Mareeba. The centre accommodates high security offenders, with low risk offenders at an annexed farm. The facilities provide a remand and reception function for areas of Queensland north of Innisfail.</p> <p>Built in the late 1980s, LGCC is Queensland's most northern correctional centre, just outside Mareeba, an hour's drive from Cairns.</p> <p>Industries include coffee growing (beans for resale to commercial industries and seeds for propagation on a commercial level); bakery (bread for centre use); carpentry (external contracts for furniture, windows, etc.); tailoring (prisoner uniforms, swags, etc.); laundry (commercial and domestic); and light industries (e.g. industrial bins).</p>	<p>LGCC Farm redesignated as a Base Work camp (for males).</p> <p>The Base Work camp at Lotus Glen will have a capacity of 100 beds.</p> <p>Because of the existing staffing structure and available infrastructure, the Base Work camp at Lotus Glen will continue its current role in managing the Work camp at Innisfail.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mareeba • Mount Carbine • Dimbulah • Mt Molloy • Kuranda • Atherton • Tolga • Tinaroo • Mt Garnet • Ravenshoe • Herberton • Malanda • Cairns • Trinity Beach • Palm Cove • Ellis Beach • Yorkey's Knob. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p>

Northern Region

Townsville Correctional Centre (TCC) Farms

Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>TCC comprises a secure centre for high security men and women offenders, a farm complex for low risk men and a women's residential area. The centre's capacity is 446 offenders.</p> <p>The centre supports laundry, tailor shop, plant nursery and farm industries for employment of offenders. In addition to meeting centre requirements, the laundry and tailor shop provide services under contract to the community and a farm produces fruit and vegetables for centre consumption.</p>	<p>TCC Farm for men and TCC Farm for women to be redesignated to a Base Work camp for men and a Base Work camp for women.</p> <p>The Base Work camp for men will have a capacity of 60 beds, and the women's Base Work camp will have a capacity of 35.</p> <p>Because of the existing staffing structure and available infrastructure, the Base Work camp will continue its current role in managing the Work camp at Bowen and the camps at Boulia, Winton and Julia Creek.</p> <p>As with other Base Work camps, a range of vocational education and training activities will be provided at the Base Work camp to cater for the aligned Work camps, industry placement or participation in the Transitions Program (pre-release planning).</p> <p>Community service projects will be undertaken within a one-hour travelling radius of the Base Work camp in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condon • Thuringowa • Deeragun • Kelso • Bluewater • Rollingstone • Paluma • Giru • Brandon • Ayr • Clare • Home Hill • Millaroo. 	<p>The transitioning of low security correctional centres to Base Work camps will build capacity and capability for reparation and rehabilitation through community service projects and increased opportunities for offenders to develop employable skills.</p>

South-East Queensland Region		
Helana Jones Centre (HJC)		
Profile	Proposed changes	Rationale
<p>The Helana Jones Centre, located in Brisbane, provides residential accommodation for 25 women.</p> <p>The centre also operates a 10-person Work camp for women at Warwick, in south-west Queensland.</p>	<p>Recommission as a post-release supported accommodation centre for women (as per the OzCare model that operates for men).</p> <p>The new centre will be operated by a non-government organisation contracted by QCS.</p> <p>The Warwick Women’s Work camp will be realigned with the Base Work camp at Palen Creek Correctional Centre.</p>	<p>Increasing low security capacity gives QCS the opportunity to address the need for supported accommodation for women ex-offenders after their release.</p> <p>There is also a need to expand accommodation options for women ex-offenders in the community.</p>



Queensland Government
Queensland **Corrective Services**

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