



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Petition

Registration No:	21
Title:	Construction of a prison in the Noonamah area
Presented on:	19/06/2009
Presented by:	Ms Purick
Referred to:	Minister Lawrie
Date referred:	24/06/2009
Response due:	20/10/2009
Response received:	7/08/2009
Response presented:	17/08/2009

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: Clerk of S

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH that we are
extremely concerned and upset by the lack of consultation with rural residents
on the construction of a prison in the Noonamah area.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT the Northern
Territory Government immediately review their decision to construct a new
prison and upgrade the existing prison.

~~—AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.—~~

Response

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2009, regarding Petition No 21 read in the Legislative Assembly expressing concern regarding the construction of a prison in the Noonamah area.

The Government has decided to construct a new correctional services facility in the Darwin region.

Prior to selecting Weddell as the site for this facility, Government considered a broad range of locations against essential criteria such as:

- an area of land of at least 100ha;
- a reasonable travelling distance to courts and medical services and for emergency responses;
- natural contours that are reasonably flat to allow surveillance of the surrounding area;
- being able to be shielded from view from either residential areas or main thoroughfares;
- being away from residential areas or potential residential areas;
- no environmental risks that might require an evacuation or cause potential or real harm to prisoners, staff and the community;
- a need to include roads, drainage, sewage treatment, water, power and any site remediation work;
- availability of the site for development of the new prison; and
- meeting NT Planning guidelines.

The site chosen at Bennetts Creek is zoned as Future Development (FD) under the Northern Territory Planning Scheme. Development of the Correctional Facility can occur in the FD zone.

The construction of the Correctional Facility will still need to comply with the requirement of a subdivision of the land as well as a Development Permit for the construction of the structures. When the design of the complex has been completed such an application will be submitted and go through the normal public consultation process.