



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Petition

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Registration No. | 27 |
| Title | Youth Justice Facility in Pinelands |
| Presented on | 25 October 2018 |
| Presented by | Mrs Lia Finocchiaro MLA (Member for Spillett) |
| Referred to | Minister for Territory Families (Hon Dale Wakefield MLA) and to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for consideration to debate |
| Assembly debate | If the Committee recommends the Petition be debated it will appear on the Notice Paper |
| Date referred | 26 October 2018 |
| Response due | 14 March 2019 |
| Response received | 15 March 2019 |
| Response presented | 19 March 2019 |

Petition

To THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH that we are strongly opposed to the development of a youth justice facility in the locality of Pinelands and the rearrangement of the roads that service the industrial estate both within and to and from the Stuart Highway. The proposed facility is inappropriate for the locality as there are many businesses that operate with sole traders and late into the evening. No risk assessment has been provided to the businesses and scant consultation undertaken as to the proposed facility.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY that the Northern Territory Government take heed of the community of Pinelands' concerns and locate the youth justice facility in a different location

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, As IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

Response

The Northern Territory (NT) Government is committed to decommissioning the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. Through a partnered approach between Territory Families and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL), the NT Government is working to deliver a purposefully designed, contemporary and secure Youth Justice Centre.

The findings of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT made it clear that changes were needed to the existing Youth Justice Centres. The existing Centres currently operate from within repurposed facilities that are at the end of their useable building lifecycle. This restricts capacity to deliver successful offender and support programs, and impacts on operational flexibility.

Construction of a new purposefully designed facility will deliver on the objectives for youth justice reform set out in the Safe, Thriving and Connected implementation plan. Programs that support rehabilitation in a secure, therapeutic care environment is at the core of a contemporary Youth Justice Centre design.

To facilitate the commitment to a new Centre, the NT Government undertook a comprehensive analysis of potential site options for a Youth Justice Centre in Darwin, including both Crown and privately-owned sites. The Pinelands site was the preferred site as it best met the brief and requirements for a Youth Justice Centre in the Greater Darwin area. Having a preferred site gave effect to a statutory process to confirm whether there was merit to re zone the site for community purpose and therefore an appropriate site for the Darwin Youth Justice Centre. The process provided the public with an opportunity to raise issues, concerns and to provide through an open and proper process.

The outcome of the statutory planning processes was announced jointly by my colleague the Hon Eva Lawler MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and myself on 12 March 2019. The Planning Minister has carefully considered the findings of the Northern Territory Planning Commission regarding the rezoning application for a new Youth Justice Centre and Rehabilitation Precinct, and has declined the application. The new Youth Justice Centre will not be built at Lot 67, McKinnon Road, Pinelands.

Now that the statutory process is complete, and the Pinelands site is no longer being considered, a new preferred site will be identified and the planning process undertaken again, as is appropriate. The planning and design work will continue and the design consultancy will be managed by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to ensure that milestones in the design process are realigned with the site selection.