

MEDIA RELEASE

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MODERN, SECURE CELLS TO HOUSE PRISONERS

Minister for Corrections David Elliott today announced the first prisoners are being moved into new purpose-built modular cells at Windsor as part of a plan to introduce more than 430 beds into the prison system.

The 40 high-grade cells at Outer Metropolitan Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre have been designed and built by Corrective Services Industries to a medium-security specification and will house 80 prisoners.

Another 40 modular cells housing 80 prisoners are in the final stages of production and will open at Parklea Correctional Centre in early December.

"This \$10 million project is an investment in community safety and allows us to quickly and flexibly adapt to rising prisoner numbers," Mr Elliott said.

More than 90 extra beds opened at Wellington Correctional Centre earlier this month, and additional capacity will be added to Glenn Innes and Grafton in coming weeks.

Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin said the modular cells featured strong steel cage frames, steel doors, and steel bars on windows and had passed stringent security testing.

"The cells were built at Muswellbrook's St Heliers Correctional Centre and at Cessnock. Tamworth supplied frames, South Coast made door hatches and windows, and Silverwater's Dawn de Loas Correctional Centre manufactured the cell doors," Commissioner Severin said.

Cells in new, modern correctional facilities will supplement these short-term measures. Plans are underway to build a new 600-bed prison in Grafton and extend Parklea Correctional Centre by an additional 400 inmates.

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