



# Fact Sheet

## Mobile phone jamming trial at Lithgow Correctional Centre

### Why is Corrective Services NSW conducting a trial of mobile phone jamming technology at Lithgow Correctional Centre?

It is a crime for a NSW correctional centre inmate to possess a mobile phone. Visitors are also prohibited from bringing mobile phones into a centre.

Contraband mobile phones pose a threat to correctional centre security and community safety, as they can be used by inmates to facilitate crimes in the community.

Mobile phone possession by inmates is a growing problem internationally. Mobiles can be hidden on people, in goods, or in vehicles that must enter correctional centres each day. With technological advances, mobile phones have become smaller and therefore easier to conceal.

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) uses a combination of measures to stop mobile phones entering and circulating within the correctional system.

Specialist search teams – including a trained mobile phone sniffer dog – conduct frequent searches of visitors, vehicles and items entering correctional centres, and of inmates' cells and common areas. Physical security at correctional centres includes x-ray and other scanning equipment. These measures are supported by strong intelligence gathering about potential mobile phone smuggling.

Mobile telephone jamming technology will add to these measures – strengthening them significantly. Jamming will make inmates' efforts to obtain contraband phones worthless because the phones themselves will not work.

Lithgow Correctional Centre has been selected as an appropriate site to trial mobile phone jamming technology.

### Will jamming of mobile phones affect my mobile phone service?

CSNSW and its engineers have worked hard to select equipment that will only jam signals within the confines of Lithgow Correctional Centre. CSNSW is confident that mobile phone networks outside the Centre will not be affected by the equipment – for example, the Great Western Highway in front of the Centre should not be affected.

### How will this trial be monitored to ensure my mobile phone is unaffected?

CSNSW is working closely with mobile phone carriers and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to ensure that CSNSW's Lithgow trial does not affect mobile phone services outside of Lithgow Correctional Centre. All parties agree that the trial must not affect the public's mobile phone service.

There are comprehensive arrangements in place to ensure that the trial is appropriately monitored and assessed.

#### What should I do if my mobile phone does not work during the trial?

If your mobile phone is not working, there could be many reasons for this. In the first instance, you should contact your mobile phone service provider. Your provider is best placed to determine the reason your service is not working. In the unlikely event that a fault is determined to be caused by the jammer, your mobile phone service provider will contact CSNSW which will immediately investigate and act to resolve any issues.

#### Are there any health risks associated with the trial?

No. All the jamming equipment must comply with the electromagnetic radiation requirements at Part 3 of the *Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Apparatus Licence) Determination 2015*.

This means that people working in buildings near the jamming equipment can be sure that the radio frequency exposure levels will be at a safe level.

#### Will any other devices be affected by the trial?

No. The equipment is designed to jam mobile phone signals only. Other wireless devices such as two-way radios, pagers, television reception and alarm systems should not be affected.

#### When will the trial start?

The trial commenced on 24 September 2013 and has been extended to 1 November 2018. During the trial CSNSW will liaise with mobile phone carriers and with Lithgow City Council to identify and address any issues as required.

#### Will there be more information available about the trial?

A general enquiries number has been set up so you can ask questions about the trial. The number is:

1800 526 637 (1800 JAMMER)

CSNSW has displayed signs at Lithgow Correctional Centre to notify visitors that a mobile phone jamming device is being used in the centre.