SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Minimum and Maximum Security Additions and Alterations to Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre

Prepared for
Mode Design Corp

By
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16-210

August 2017
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre ("MNCCC"), is located in the suburb of Aldavilla, approximately 14 km west of the Kempsey town centre and 440km north of the Sydney. The Centre falls within the Kempsey Shire on the Mid North Cost of NSW. Opening in 2004 the Centre was originally designed as a multi-classification centre. Currently the facility has an overall capacity of 560 beds, and accommodates inmates of both maximum, medium and minimum security classification for males and females, as well as persons on remand. In accordance with the NSW Inmate Census (2015)¹, the facility currently houses 349 maximum security male inmates, 48 medium security female inmates and 107 minimum security male and female inmates.

The NSW custody statistics show that there are currently 12,390 adults and 294 juveniles in custody (both remand and sentenced prisoners) in NSW². In June 2015, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice announced that the state’s prisons were reaching capacity and in addition to recent changes to the NSW bail laws there has been additional pressure on the prison system by keeping more people in custody while they were before the courts. With the NSW prison population estimated to continue to grow, potentially climbing to as high as 17,600 prisoners by 2036 the MNCCC has been identified as a centre with capacity to expand to provide additional medium security beds within the existing prison grounds³.

The works comprise the following:

- A new 440 – bed medium security modular accommodation building (male inmates);
- Conversion of the existing external honour unit to a new staff amenities facility; and
- Upgrading of existing infrastructure buildings associated with the external store, the gate house and administration building as well as the visitor centre and reception.

A physical description of the existing site and the proposed development is included in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

BBC Consulting Planners has been commissioned to prepare this Socio-Economic Impact Assessment as part of the REF. In accordance with the staging of the project, this report assesses the general socio-economic considerations in relation to the Centre additions and upgrades including consideration of comments and issues raised through general and targeted consultation.

The objectives of undertaking this study are as follows:

- To assess the social and economic impacts of the proposed new facilities on the local community;

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¹ Corben, S (2015) NSW Inmate Census 2015, Corrective Services NSW.
² NSW Custody Statistics Quarterly Update (March 2016) NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
1.2 Scope and Methodology

Social Impact Assessment is the analysis of social changes and impacts on a community that are likely to occur as a result of a particular development, planning scheme, or government policy decision. Remembering that not all social change within a community will cause social impacts, and not all population growth in a community will result in a negative social impact, the role of the SIA is to ensure that the process of change is anticipated, prepared for and managed adequately to minimise any potential negative impacts and maximise the positive benefits to the community.

There are many definitions of social impact. Two definitions suitable to the present assessment are:

- People’s way of life – how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis;
- Their culture – that is, their shared beliefs, customs, and values;
- Their community – its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities

And

- By social impacts we mean the consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values, and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society.

Economic impact assessment is also a useful tool in understanding changes to income, employment opportunities and wider effects in purchasing and spending in the region. Used together, a socio-economic impact assessment can provide a comprehensive, co-ordinated picture of these overlapping issues, providing information on potential economic impacts as well as important social values held by the community which inform likely attitudes and responses to the proposed change.

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The social and economic impact assessment has involved the following methodology: -

1. **Scoping.** Identifying potentially affected groups and individuals and their issues of concern and the nature of the likely impact – what might happen where and to whom?

2. **Profiling.** Describe the nature of the groups and individuals likely to be affected.

3. **Prediction.** What are the social and economic impacts associated with the development, who is affected and to what extent?

4. **Assessment.** Are these impacts significant given the priorities, policies and programs of Government?

5. **Management, mitigation, monitoring and review.** How can we best manage the potential impacts of this development which we have identified?

6. **Recommendations.** What recommended strategies and actions will produce the best outcomes for the groups or individuals potentially impacted by the development?

**1.2.1 Note on Involvement in Community Consultation**

It is important that the assessment of social impacts is informed by engagement with representatives of organisations and key stakeholders. Such discussions provide valuable information in understanding the community and its values, and inform the evaluation of potential impacts.

As general consultation for the project involving information notification letters to residents and property owners has been undertaken by NSW Justice, BBC Planners has carried out targeted discussions with key stakeholders to gauge an understanding of the current operations and likely impacts as a result of the expansion.

**1.3 Existing Social and Economic Impact Assessment**

The social and economic impacts of a number of existing and planned correctional centres throughout NSW have been documented in a series of investigations prior to and since the respective centre commenced operations. These studies have informed the basis of our assessment. The following Post-Occupancy social impact studies have been carried out to date: -

- *Mid North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment* prepared by BBC Consulting Planners, August 2007; and

Specifically, these studies have monitored the following key issues which were identified as being of particular interest: -

- Community fears and concerns regarding the prison;
- Property values and saleability of nearby lands;
- Status of the prison within the community;
• Economic impact of the prison having regard to direct and indirect investment and expenditure;
• Impacts of the prison on temporary accommodation and low cost housing; and
• Impacts on social services generally, including health, childcare, community, crime etc. as a consequence of the facility and visits to the facility.

The studies have found that, in general, existing correctional centres are well established in the social and economic fabric of their communities. Negative social impacts associated with centres are generally minimal or non-existent. While some negative perceptions can be held by members of local communities, these tend to be of a minor nature and do not impact on the day-to-day activities of communities.

1.3.1 Summary of Findings from the MNCCC 2007 Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Assessment

A post-occupancy assessment was prepared in 2007 in order to assess the social and economic impacts of the MNCCC. The summary of the finding from the 2007 assessment are as follows:

- The opening of the Centre in 2004 had little impact on trends with crime rates remaining stable or declining in most areas;
- Police did not express a concern that crime in the area related to the Centre;
- Incidences of anti-social behaviour in relation to visitors to the Centre had been minimal, and largely confined to the Centre car-park;
- There had been minimal impact on government welfare services;
- The presence of the Centre had a positive impact in boosting property prices and had not deterred considerable new housing development in Kempsey;
- There had been no escapes from the Centre (recorded between 2004 – 2007);
- There was very little evidence of families of inmates moving to the area or of inmates not previously from the area choosing to remain in Kempsey;
- Investment in Kempsey had continued to grow, suggesting Kempsey has retained a positive image; and
- No concerns were raised from tourism groups or Council with regards to the image of the town.

A key recommendation of the 2007 study was the establishment of the Community Consultative Committee and the important role of the Committee in ensuring agencies and stakeholders effectively discuss and manage issues that arise in relation to the Centre.
2. The Centre

2.1 The Existing Facility and Surrounding Context

The MNCCC is located within the Kempsey Shire LGA and forms part of the Macleay Valley, the traditional home of the Dunghutti people. The Kempsey LGA, approximately 350km north of Sydney, covers an area of 337,874 hectares from the Pacific Ocean in the east to Five Day Creek in the west.

The MNCCC is located within the suburb of Aldavilla with a portion of the site also located within the neighbouring suburb of Yarraville. The facility itself is located approximately 14km west of the township of Kempsey.

Located along the banks of the Macleay River, the township of Kempsey is the largest town within the LGA and is known as a hub for retail, business activity, with the main railway line which bisects the town. The Correctional Centre is located within a predominantly rural area, just north of the Macleay River. The site is generally rectangular in shape, and the majority is enclosed by a secure fence. Dense vegetation surrounds the perimeter fencing as well as the northern, eastern and southern boundary of the site.

Adjoining the site to the north is rural land, zoned Rural Landscape (RU2) used primarily for grazing purposes. Further to the north and north east of the site bordering the Fattorini Creek is land zoned Large Lot Residential (R5) which comprises residential housing in a rural setting.

The Kempsey airport is located just east of the site and is capable of handling commercial passenger services however currently, there are no daily passenger services operating from Kempsey Airport. The airport is currently utilised for a range of recreational purposes, including the Kempsey Flying Club, private charter aircraft, Australian International Aviation College, medical and emergency services and Coffs Skydiving.

The site adjoins grazing and rural residential properties to the south, and to the west across Aldavilla Road.

2.2 The Existing Facility

The centre is operated by Corrective Services NSW (“CSNSW”).

All built structures are located on the eastern half of the site. The western half of the site comprises a mixture of gently undulating, cleared and vegetated land.

Two small dams are located either side of the road entrance to the centre and is most likely used for the purposes of capturing stormwater runoff.

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7 Kempsey Shire Council,
8 Ibid.
Outside the secure fenced area: -

- the gatehouse, which is the administration and entry point for all access to the centre;
- staff, visitor, disabled/executive and overflow car parking areas;
- two domestic style accommodation “honour units”, one for women with areas for mothers with their children, and one for men, totalling 23 beds;
- the Prisoner Development Unit, with 90 beds and ancillary car parking;
- transport/response unit, which provides the base for parking of secure vehicles and the dog squad;
- kitchen and stores building; and

Inside the secure fenced area: -

- the high security unit, having accommodation for maximum and medium security inmates, as well as an industries and programs building, gymnasium, contemplation space, and areas for outdoor activities;
- the men’s minimum security zone within four domestic style buildings, with a community centre for shared activities and a playing field;
- the women’s unit, comprising three domestic style accommodation buildings and a community centre for shared activities; and a playing field; and
- the shared zone, for the use of all inmates, comprising a laundry, business unit, clinic, reception and visits building.

2.3 Security

2.3.1 Minimum Security
The current management strategy for all minimum security inmates includes the following: -

- The Centre currently provides for both male (Category C2 and C3) and female (Category 2 or 1) minimum security inmates. Minimum security inmates are those considered to need some level of supervision by correctional officers or other authorised person, and are not necessarily confined by a physical barrier at all times.
- The primary physical security measure currently used is fencing in conjunction with electronic surveillance and detection systems. These systems are enhanced with static and dynamic security by all staff through the use of area and case management principles to facilitate the classification process.

2.3.2 Medium Security
The current management strategy for all medium security inmates includes the following: -
Currently the medium security inmates are classified as Category 4 for the purposes of security. Category 4 inmates are those that not only require confinement by a physical barrier but also electronic surveillance;

The primary physical security measure currently used is fencing in conjunction with electronic surveillance and detection systems. Such security systems are enhanced through the use of case management of inmates which helps to facilitate the inmate classification process.

### 2.3.3 Maximum Security

The existing Centre also houses sentenced maximum security offenders that are not permitted to leave the facility. The current management strategies for the Centre include the following:

- Security and inmate control rely on “direct supervision”. This key concept involves placing custodial staff in accommodation units where they are in direct sight and sound contact with inmates;
- Groups of inmates (between 50-80 inmates) managed on an area management basis encouraging decentralisation of decision-making and relying on achieving a high level of security through the use of staff-inmate interaction;
- Individual inmate programs managed on a case management basis to encourage structured interaction and personalises the area management process by allocating groups of inmates to multi-disciplinary case-management teams; and
- Inmates will be subject to a structured day to provide for and encourage them to be occupied with either work, education and life skills courses, or constructive recreation and hobby/craft programs for the best part of the working week.

In general, the objectives of the security system are maintained through constructive staff/inmate interaction, complimented by mechanical and electronic devices. With the aim to ensure the safety of the inmates, staff and the local community the following principle objectives of the security system include:

- To prevent inmates from escaping;
- To prevent illegal entry into the correctional centre; and
- To control any aggressive behaviour of inmates towards staff, visitors and other inmates.

### 2.4 Visits

#### 2.4.1 Visiting Hours

At the existing facility, inmates can be visited on Saturday and Sundays (no public holidays) between 9.00am – 11.00am and 12.30pm – 2.30pm.
Visits are by appointment only and are pre-booked in one-hour blocks. All inmates may also receive legal visitors by appointment, Monday - Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 2:00pm.

It is anticipated that visiting hours for the new medium security correctional facility will be similar to those currently in place for inmates with a minimum-security classification.

2.4.2 Number of Visitors

Current information from the centre indicates that on average, MNCCC receives 100 visits per day each weekend resulting in approximately 800 visits per month. The overall total number of visitors to the Centre per year/month is expected to increase with the additional 440 beds which has been taken into consideration with the proposed construction of a new visits area for both the minimum and maximum security areas.

Visitor parking is addressed in the traffic and parking assessment attached to the REF. The report indicates that approximately 150 car parking spaces will be provided.

2.5 Establishment of the existing Centre

The MNCCC is one of the more recently established correctional centres in NSW. Opened in 2004 the establishment of the new Centre in Kempsey was considered to be of significant benefit to the local economy, estimated to bring $10 million in salaries into the local economy with a number of staff recruited from the local area and training delivered on site.

In 2007 a Post Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment was undertaken to review the concerns identified by the community prior to 2004 and assess the social and economic impacts of the MNCCC since opening.

2.5.1 Findings of the previous assessment

The assessment of the establishment of the Centre included the consideration of:

- The impacts to safety and security;
- The impacts to community services;
- The impacts on the local/regional economy.

The findings revealed the following:

- Crime rates had remained stable or declined in most areas;
- Police did not express a concern that crime in the area related to the Centre;
- There had been no escapes from the Centre;
- Incidences of anti-social behaviour in relation to visitors to the Centre were minimal;
- There was minimal impact on government welfare services;
- The presence of the Centre had a positive impact in boosting property prices and had not deterred new housing development in Kempsey;

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9 Pers. Comm. – Department of Correctional Services, General Manager Custodial Infrastructure, July 2016
There was little evidence of families of inmates moving to the area or of inmates not previously from the area choosing to remain in Kempsey. It was also noted that approximately 60% of inmates were from the local area;

Investment in Kempsey had continued to grow, with new industries and businesses establishing themselves in the town, suggesting Kempsey had retained a positive image;

There were no concerns from tourism groups or Council with regards to the image of the town.

Overall, the economic impact had been significant with approximately $1 million being contributed per year to the local economy in addition to the input from voluntary and community work and flow on effects.

2.5.2 Previous Recommendations

Whilst it was anticipated that potential negative social impacts were expected to be minimal the assessment made recommendations in order to appropriately manage future socio-economic impacts in relation to the ongoing operation of the Centre. It was considered that ongoing actions could be taken to:

- Minimise negative social impacts;
- Address any social impacts that may arise, particularly in relation to housing and community facilities and welfare needs related to the Centre; and
- Enhance both the positive economic and social impacts of the Centre.

Considerable emphasis was placed on the operation of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the ongoing consideration and management of issues and concerns that might arise in relation to the operation of the Centre. To minimise potential negative impacts and maximise the positive social and economic impacts it was recommended that:

**Fear of Escapes**

- Centre management continue working through the CCC to report on security measures and action taken in relation to escape management.
- Centre management continue to refine and improve Emergency Response Plans and methods of advising appropriate authorities and residents of escapes.
- Centre management continue to implement case management practices to increase awareness of potential escapes.

**Families of Inmates**

- Centre management to work with community services to collect data on the issue of families of inmates moving to the area and committing crimes.
- Centre management to continue working through the CCC to report on known incidences committed by families of inmates.

**Social Stigma**

- The CCC was to continue to work with Council and tourism authorities to maintain a positive image and build tourism opportunities.
• Economic benefits being delivered to the community were to be promoted.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

• The CCC was to work with Police, Council and other community groups to ensure crime levels continued to decline and the perception of personal and property safety is increased through active revitalisation programs.
• Corrective Services NSW to liaise with the Local Area Command to ensure staffing levels remain adequate and continue to share resources and information where relevant.
• The CCC was to participate in the development of the next Crime Prevention Strategy
• The operation of the weekend shuttle service from Kempsey train station to the Centre was to continue to minimise the disruption to daily life in the town.

Inmates Remaining in Kempsey Upon Release

• Communication procedures were to be developed to address community concerns of released inmates.
• Close integration with parole officers and other services was to continue in order to maintain a smooth transition of released inmates back to their home communities.

Social and Welfare Services

• Social service providers were to be encouraged to articulate their policies on service provision, work with local services to ensure streamlined approaches to service delivery and maximising opportunities.
• Release strategy procedures were to be monitored to ensure all possible arrangements are made in advance.
• Increased communication between social services and the MNCCC to ensure effective case management continues after release.
• Liaison between MNCCC, Corrective Services NSW, and TAFE to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the planning and delivery of education programs is maintained.

Emergency and Short Term Accommodation

• CCC was to develop a comprehensive policy for inmates’ visitors to the Centre, to ensure accommodation is arranged in advance, thereby minimising impact on emergency accommodation providers.
• MNCCC staff were to maintain and develop strong links with all relevant accommodation providers in Kempsey to ensure the smooth transition of released inmates back in to the community with minimal impact on emergency accommodation providers.
• In addition, Corrective Services NSW was to liaise with the Department of Housing and other low-cost housing providers to manage accommodation options and availability for visitors, and inmates upon release.
Other

- Corrective Services NSW, the CCC, Council and local land councils were to co-operate on addressing the community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs for short-term accommodation and transport.
- Management of interrelationships with the local community and service providers was to be ongoing to facilitate the integration of service delivery.
- The impact on rural lifestyle of the area was to be continually monitored with a focus on traffic management and coordination between key agencies (RTA and Council) to address congestion issues if they arose.
- Liaison with economic development groups was to occur to explore new ways to value add economically from the Centre.
- Work release programs were to be investigated to contribute to local public works and community projects.
- The CCC was to work with the Guri Wa Ngundagar Aboriginal Corporation to develop and facilitate skills enhancement programs, pre-employment strategies and active recruitment drives in the Indigenous community.
3. Proposed Additions

The works to which this report relates include the provision of:

- 440 medium security beds;
- refurbishment and extensions to existing buildings;
- health clinic;
- industry/programmes;
- car park expansion; and
- ancillary facilities to support the expansion.

A copy of the overall site plan is provided within the REF.

3.1 Operational Workforce

Overall staffing numbers currently sit at approximately 196 with that expected to rise to a 314 as a result of the proposed facility expansion. Table 1 below identifies that existing staffing profile as well as the additional staff proposed to facilitate the medium security expansion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custodial</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industries</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>182%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The staffing profile suggests that staff numbers are expected to increase by an additional 118 staff, across a range of categories.

Custodial staff will be rotated throughout a 24-hour, staggered-shift roster. Program, administration and industries staff will generally attend the centre from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

It is understood that additional medical staff will also be employed or contracted by Justice Health in order to cater for the additional inmate population.

3.1.1 Staff Recruitment

Where possible, a proportion of staff will be recruited from within the local community providing an important pool for base grade custodial positions where such positions cannot be filled from within the CSNSW. Industries and non-custodial staff could be recruited locally, where possible, with local staff attracted by advertising positions in the local paper.

To assist in the recruitment of people from the local community, it is understood that the Department of Justice will consider undertaking a targeted campaign through the opening of a local shop front to promote recruitment. The recruitment drive will provide a personalised service to walk applicants through the application process to determine suitability and where possible, to provide training locally as opposed to the 11-weeks training course based in Sydney.
3.1.2 Staff Location

The residential location of Correctional Centre staff is important to an assessment of the implications of staff relocation to Kempsey. While the expansions to the correctional centre will provide employment opportunities to persons living within Kempsey or surrounding suburbs, a proportion of the new workforce may move to the area.

A survey of employees undertaken at the MNCCC after opening in 2007 found that over half (56%) of respondents were residents in the Kempsey area prior to their employment at the MNCCC with only 12% (8 people) indicating that they had to move to Kempsey due to their employment at the MNCCC. It is expected that similar outcomes will occur as a result of the expansion to the MNCCC. Some staff are also likely to be recruited from the surrounding region including Aldavilla, Yarravel, South West Rocks and Port Macquarie.

Staff moving into the area will be faced with a decision as to where to live. This decision will be influenced by several factors, many of which will be related to family circumstances and lifestyle choices. Because the choice of residential location is influenced by a range of unpredictable factors, it is difficult to be precise in relation to where staff will live. If necessary, the situation will be monitored during the recruitment process and commissioning.

3.2 Construction Workforce

Construction of the 440 bed facility is expected to commence in 2017, taking approximately 12-18 months, with completion anticipated in mid-2018.

During construction, it is estimated that 200 construction workers are expected to be inducted on site.

3.2.1 Construction Employment Opportunities

The contract documentation for the construction of the development will contain standard requirements under the Government Apprentice Employment Policy and Training Management Guidelines, requiring the contractor to ensure that 20% of trade work involved in the contract is undertaken by apprentices and that employees receive ongoing training in their discipline.

The contract documentation will also contain requirements under the NSW Government’s Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines. This will include the establishment of an Indigenous Consultative Committee that would involve various stakeholders and would seek to achieve employment for Indigenous Australians on the project.

3.3 Labour Source

An important consideration in the assessment of social impacts is the effect of the project on labour activities within the region. The impacts of labour sourcing can vary according to the relationship of an area to larger labour markets and the existence of appropriately skilled labour within the locality.

Data collected by Department of Commerce during the construction of the MNCCC at Kempsey indicated that, of all of the people inducted on site (including contractors and construction staff, client representatives, project management staff, suppliers and others), 66% resided in Kempsey and adjacent local government areas, with over half of those, or 37% in total, being
resident in the Kempsey Shire. This can be taken as being indicative of the number of construction jobs filled by locals during the construction of the proposed facility although it would also include workers who have moved permanently to the area because of a job at the centre. This percentage for Kempsey can be partly explained by the close settlement patterns along the coast and the generally higher development rates providing a continuity of work for a construction workforce.

The construction of the new facilities at the Correctional Centre is likely to source labour from the region. It is likely that 50-70% of employment opportunities for suppliers and subcontractors will be sourced from the local area, given its relative proximity to Port Macquarie, the Central Coast, Sydney and the relative size of these labour markets.

It is impossible to predict with any certainty the number of construction jobs that will be filled by local workers and the source of the workforce is likely to vary from trade to trade and will be influenced by the circumstances of individual contractors. It is not unreasonable however to assume, particularly considering the higher proportions of construction, trade and labour occupations of residents within the Kempsey area, that approximately 50-70% of workers on the site would come from the Kempsey area. This accords with information obtained from Department of Commerce during experiences at both Kempsey and Bathurst. This percentage can be increased by the early implementation of training programs in skills likely to be required at the facility.

### 3.4 Inmate Employment, Education and Training Opportunities

The provision of offender training and employment opportunities through correctional industry programmes represents an essential offender programme endeavour in contemporary correctional management.

The industries and training areas are a key element of inmate rehabilitation. Prison industries throughout NSW are operated by Corrective Services Industries (CSI), a unique commercial unit of CSNSW. Through its various business divisions, CSI provides a diverse range of products and services together with co-operative business opportunities.

The trading performance of CSI contributes significantly to reducing the cost of corrections. By working, inmates fulfil the discipline aspect of a corrective environment, while at the same time compensating the community. This is also an important part of inmate transition into the community.

The emphasis of CSI has been to create a work environment with conditions similar to those which the inmates will encounter upon release into the community. The CSI environment has all the rigours, discipline and satisfaction of a workplace in the community.

#### 3.4.1 Education and Training

Since 2014 the MNCCC has operated an Intensive Learning Centre, designed for maximum security inmates to develop literacy and numeracy skills and qualifications over six month, full time training courses. Computer and trades skills are also taught as well as skills in job applications, resumes and interview techniques to assist with employment opportunities upon release. Proven to be successful in improving inmates’ behaviour and learning outcomes the
skills will allow for inmates to more successfully complete prison programs that can reduce reoffending risks to the community.

The Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) provides literacy, numeracy and communications courses to inmates via the Institute of TAFE. Training includes:

- Traineeships hospitality;
- Engineering traineeships;
- Warehousing traineeships;
- Food safety courses
- Small motor training;
- Forklift and welding training courses;
- White card courses.

3.5 Community Interrelations

3.5.1 Community Consultative Committee

The establishment of Community Consultative Committees (“CCC”) is now a standard practice of the CSNSW, as a function of their correctional centre to inform the community with regards to the construction and operations of centres. Committee members are generally drawn from the local community (especially neighbours), the magistracy, courts administration, local Government, police, representatives of the local business community, local community service and health care providers, as well as correctional centre management and staff. Representatives of Aboriginal groups may also be represented on the Committee. Community Consultative Committees are seen as an important element for maintaining community reparation activities.

The role of CCC includes:

- to assist in the development and maintenance of a positive relationship with the local community;
- to provide a forum for local community consultation and comment on correctional programs and procedures;
- to facilitate the involvement of the local community in correctional centre programs;
- to assist in the resolution of issues arising in the community associated with the centre; and
- to provide a mechanism to identify appropriate programs in which the Correctional Centre can participate and assist the local community.

The Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, the CCC acts as a liaison between the MNCCC and the broader community to assist with ensuring that positive community impacts can be maximised, within operational and budgetary constraints.
It is understood that the Community Consultative Committee is still operational today with regular meetings occurring usually on a bi-monthly basis. Fluctuating attendance, with higher representation when issues arise it is common for members to include local resident as well as representatives from TAFE. Requests for new representatives have recently been re-initiated with upcoming meetings likely to discuss the proposed expansion of the MNCCC. Whilst the review of the establishment of the Centre in 2007 recommended the CCC take on a significant role in assisting the management and coordination of agencies and stakeholders it is understood that additional key agency groups have been established, meeting on a regular basis, to coordinate and manage issues, some specifically addressing issues in relation to inmates nearing release.

It is recommended that the committee continue to operate to allow for open and effective communication between stakeholders in identifying issues and concerns that might arise as a result of the additions. The CCC will also play an important role in monitoring the positive impacts of the development, as well as informing the future works programs that can be established to assist the local community as a result of the increased number of inmates that will be available for supervised works programs.

3.5.2 Expanded Community Involvement

Community engagement forms part of the daily operations of correctional centres across NSW including local employment, community reparation providing unpaid work as well as partnerships with business and local service providers in rural or regional NSW.

At present, a formal work project that has been developed involves inmates providing labour in the local community which involves the upkeep of the Cybucca Memorial. The additions to the Centre will allow for a significant increase in the number of inmates with potential to be employed on site and involved in further community work facilitated through the Centre. It is recommended that additional activities are discussed with the CCC to consider opportunities for inmates to assist local organisations for activities such as tree planting, rubbish removal, mowing, welding and other general maintenance.

3.5.3 Prison Servicing Interagency Meeting

It is understood, through targeted consultation, that some key agencies and service providers meet on regular basis (bi-monthly) to discuss issues and potential projects in relation to the MNCCC, particularly in relation to the management and re-integration of inmates following release. The establishment of such specialised groups has been shown to be effective in managing issues that can arise in relation to the impact on service providers and barriers inmates face when nearing and upon release.

It is understood that these meetings are attended by various agencies with the aim of reducing reoffence rates within the region. Agencies noted to attend these meetings include the NSW Department of Housing, NSW Health, and Department of Premier and Cabinet.

10 BBC Consulting Planners, 2016. *Socio Economic Impact Assessment, Additions to South Coast Correctional Centre.*
With agencies having key interests and active roles in the participation of discussions, smaller groups have been established to target specific programs aimed at coordinated roles in reducing rates of re-offence. One such program is the Family Investment Model; a NSW Government Initiative being implemented in both Kempsey and Dubbo aimed at reducing intergenerational offending and breaking the cycle of re-offending within families.
4. Demographic Profile

The following demographic profile is based upon data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing for 2011. At the time of preparation of this report, no preliminary data from the 2016 had been released. The Census data has been supplemented with other data where available. The purpose is to provide an understanding of the characteristics of the community within which the South Coast Correctional Centre is located.

A number of comparative areas have been used with this demographic profile, the first being the Aldavilla suburb, which covers the site of the Centre and the suburb of Yarravel, as the boundary located within close proximity to the Centre. Data for the Kempsey LGA and the North Coast Region is also included for comparison. A summary of key demographic indicators has been provided in Appendix 1.

As noted by the ABS, detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, in detention centres in Australia, people in police lock ups or prisons are in the scope of the Census. Details are sourced from administrative data so only basic demographic statistics including age, gender, indigenous and marital status are available.

Data in relation to the Corrective Services NSW Inmates has been extracted from the most recent NSW Inmate Census, conducted as part of the National Australian Prison Census for 30 June 2015.

4.1 Corrective Services NSW Inmates

4.1.1 NSW Inmate Census

As part of the Australian National Prison Census, a census of NSW inmates who are managed by Corrective Services NSW is conducted annually. As recorded in December 2015 there were 11,788 full time custody inmates in NSW of which 92.7% were male and 7.3% were female. The majority of inmates are aged between 18-44 years (79.2%) born in Australia (77.0%) and have never been married (58.8% at time of reception). 24.2% of all inmates were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Of all inmates 50.0% were classified as minimum security, 29.5% medium and 16.3% maximum security level. 76.4% had a known prior imprisonment. 94.8% of inmates lived in NSW (last known address) with 8.1% from Sydney – South West, 7.5% from Inner South West.

Trends in the age profile of inmates reveals the inmate population is ageing with 20.9% of the population now aged 45 and over. There has been a decline in the proportion of inmates aged between 18-24 years (39.3% in 1982 and 17.6% in 2015).

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12 Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics.
Between 2014 and 2015 there were 8,297 discharges from correctional centres in NSW on sentence completion. The majority of discharges were on parole (73.5%) with 26.5% having served their sentence\(^{15}\).

Detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, who are residing in prisons are counted in the general scope of the Census, however only basic demographic status is available.

### 4.1.2 Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre

Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre is a male and female centre. The 349 maximum security male inmates account for 3.0% of the total inmate population in NSW while the 48 female medium security inmates make up only 0.4% of the total inmate population in NSW and the 107 male minimum security inmates only 0.9%\(^{16}\).

### 4.2 Demographic Overview

The purpose of this profile is to provide an understanding of the characteristics of the community within which the MNCCC is located. Three main comparative areas have been used within this demographic profile, including both Aldavilla and Yarravel State Suburbs (SSC) which includes inmates housed within the MNCCC, the Kempsey LGA, and the State of New South Wales. 2006 census data will also be presented in the SIA to identify broad trends and changes in demographic composition.

A summary of the demographic analysis recorded by the 2011 Census reveals that the two state suburbs which include the MNCCC site, Aldavilla and Yarravel suburbs were home to 1,154 and 1,049 people respectively. This results in a total population of 2,203 people which accounts for 7.8% of the LGA population (of 28,134). As a whole, both state suburbs (Aldavilla and Yarravel) have a large proportion of people of working age (50.5% and 34.4% respectively), aged 25-54 years, who live in a family household (82.2% and 78.9%) as a couple with children (34% and 43.9%) or couple family without children (48.1% and 43.5%). Both suburbs have a high proportion of people whom own a home outright (47.9% and 42.8%) with a median weekly household income of $988 and $967 which is significantly higher when compared to that of the Kempsey LGA ($748).

A table summarising the key demographic features of the Aldavilla and Yarravel State Suburbs, West Kempsey State Suburb, Kempsey State Suburb, the Kempsey LGA, and the State of NSW has been provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.2.1 Current Population

In 2011 the population of the suburbs of Aldavilla and Yarravel was 1,154 and 1,049 respectively which combined, results in 2203 persons covering 7.8% of the LGA population. Since the 2006 census, there have been changes to the census collected geographic areas.

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\(^{16}\) Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics.
This has had an influence on the change in population data within the surround state suburbs on the MNCCC between 2006-2011.

Table 2 below shows that between 2006 and 2011, the population of both the Aldavilla SS and the Yarravel SS grew by 8.5% and 26.3% respectively which compared to the Kempsey LGA population (2.7%), represents significant growth within the area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2006 Persons</th>
<th>2011 Persons</th>
<th>2006-2011 Change</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldavilla SS</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarravel SS</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>27,387</td>
<td>28,134</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA’s) in 2011 replace the current 2006 Capital City Statistical Divisions reflecting changes to the Greater Sydney boundary.

Age Structure

- Aldavilla State Suburb (“Aldavilla SS”) has a significantly lower proportion of children aged 5-14 in 2011 compared to the Yarravel State Suburb (“Yarravel SS”) (8.5% and 14.7% respectively). Similarly, the proportion of children aged 5-14 in the Aldavilla SS was Yarravel SS was significantly lower than the Kempsey LGA (13.2%) but, comparative with the findings within the Yarravel SS.

- The Yarravel SS had a significantly lower proportion of persons aged 25-54 years (34.4%) compared to the Aldavilla State Suburb (50.5%) and NSW (41.4%), yet comparative with the Kempsey LGA (34.2%).

- The Aldavilla SS had a lower proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (11.8%) compared to the Yarravel SS (16.4%), the Kempsey LGA (19.8%) NSW (14.7%).

As seen in the graph below the Kempsey Shire LGA had a significant change in age structure with a significant growth in the number of older persons aged 60-64, 65-69 and 85 and older with a significant decline in the number of persons aged between 10-14 years.
4.2.2 Future Population Trends

Having regard to the population counts from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001 to 2011), the Department of Planning and Environment provides population projections to help plan and service infrastructure delivery for the community. The population projections show that NSW will grow to 9.9 million people by 2036\(^{17}\).

Table 3 below outlines the expected population projections for the Kempsey LGA, the Mid North Coast Region and NSW. According to the 2016 data, the rate of annual population growth in the Kempsey LGA is projected to increase by 5.6% between 2011-2031 and will remain stable at 30,850 between 2031-2036. The rate of population growth within the LGA is significantly less than the projected rate of growth in the North Coast Region (16.9%) and NSW as a whole (27.5%).

Table 3: 2014 Population Projections for the Kempsey LGA, North Coast Region and NSW 2011-2036

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kempsey LGA</th>
<th>North Coast Region</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29,150</td>
<td>495,300</td>
<td>7,218,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>28,800</td>
<td>519,300</td>
<td>7,748,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>541,350</td>
<td>8,297,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>30,700</td>
<td>561,700</td>
<td>8,844,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2031</td>
<td>30,850</td>
<td>579,850</td>
<td>9,386,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2036</td>
<td>30,850</td>
<td>595,450</td>
<td>9,925,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Transport and Population Data Centre (2016 release)

Table 4: Selected Population Characteristics for the Kempsey LGA and NSW 2006-2036

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kempsey LGA</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% aged 0-14</td>
<td>% aged 15-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>55.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2031</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>51.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2036</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>50.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Transport and Population Data Centre (2016 release)

- The proportion of the population 65 years and older is expected to increase in all areas. In the Kempsey LGA, the proportion of 65 years and older is expected to increase from 19.3% of the population in 2011 to 32% by 2036. Similarly, in NSW 65 year olds and older account for 14.5% of the population in 2011 and are expected to increase to 20.8% in 2036.

- Concurrently, the Kempsey LGA will experience a decline in the proportion of the population 14 years and under from 19.6% of the population in 2011 to 17.6% by 2036 whereas NSW will experience a more stable proportion of the population 14 years and younger from 18.9% of the population to 18.1% in 2036.

4.3 Household Type and Structure

Table 5 below outlines the household type and structure for Aldavilla SS and Yarravel SS as well as the Kempsey Region.

Table 5: Occupied Private Dwellings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupied Private Dwellings</th>
<th>Aldavilla</th>
<th>Yarravel</th>
<th>Kempsey LGA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate House</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-detached, row or terrace house</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat, unit or apartment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dwellings</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 41 ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile 2011

*Housing structure calculated from profile.id based on classification of “medium and high density” housing.

- Separate dwellings were the most common form of dwelling within the Kempsey LGA (74.9%). This trend is evident within the Aldavilla and Yarravel SS where there were no other forms of dwellings registered as part of the 2011 census.

- At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 9,466 private dwellings in the Kempsey LGA, of which 240 (2.5%) were located in the Aldavilla and 367 (3.8%) in Yarravel.

- Over six years (2008–9 to 2013–14) 343 new dwellings were commenced in the Kempsey LGA. During the period of 2013-2014, only 5 dwellings were commenced in Aldavilla/Yarravel.
The rate of home ownership (owned outright) in the Aldavilla SS (47.9%) was comparable to the Yarravel SS (42.8%) and the Kempsey LGA (42.5%) and slightly higher than the State average of 33.2%.

The proportion of properties rented within Aldavilla SS (10.8%) is comparable to the Yarravel SS (9.5%) and, is significantly lower when compared to the Kempsey LGA (27.2%) and the State (30.1%).

The proportion of couple families with children in the Aldavilla SS (34%) was lower than the Yarravel SS (43.9%), both of which are higher than the Kempsey LGA (32.3%) yet lower than the State average (45.5%). Conversely, the proportion of single parent families in the Aldavilla SS (48.1%) and Yarravel SS (43.5%) was comparable with the Kempsey LGA and slightly higher than the State average (43.7% and 36.6% respectively).

As shown in the graph below, the number of separate houses significantly increased between 2006 – 2011 with medium density dwellings increasing by an additional 115 dwellings. The number of caravans, cabins, houseboats as well as high density dwellings declined.

**Change in dwelling structure, 2006 to 2011**

As seen in the graph below the Kempsey Shire is expected to grow over the next twenty years with an increase of over 1,200 households and the average number of persons per household falling (2.43 to 2.30 by 2026).
### 4.4 Social and Economic Characteristics

#### 4.4.1 Ethnicity

- In 2011, 208 (18%) residents of the Aldavilla SS, 83 (7.9%) residents of the Yarravel SS and 3,114 (11.1%) residents in the Kempsey LGA indicated they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island origin. Whilst the State of NSW identified significantly lower numbers of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island origin decedents at only 2.5%.

- In Aldavilla SS, the proportion of persons from a non-English speaking background is 6.0% whilst in the Yarravel SS there was 2.8% of persons from non-English speaking backgrounds. In terms of cultural diversity, the Aldavilla SS has a higher proportion of people from non-English speaking background when compared to the Yarravel SS (2.8%) and the Kempsey LGA (2.7%) while being significantly less that NSW with 18.6%.

- In the Aldavilla SS the two most common non-English speaking groupings were Dutch and Greek while the two most common groupings recorded within the Yarravel SS were German and Dutch. By comparison the most common non-English speaking groupings for NSW were Chinese and Arabic.
4.4.2 Education

- Excluding detainees at MNCCC, 13.8% of people in the Aldavilla SS had completed Year 12 (or equivalent) of schooling compared to Yarravel SS (24.8%) and the Kempsey LGA (24.7%).

- Whilst overall there is a lower proportion of the population aged 15 and over with educational qualifications (35.5%) compared with Regional NSW (41.5%), since 2006 the population of the Kempsey LGA has become more educated with significant growth in the number of persons within the Kempsey LGA that had vocational qualifications (+696 persons) and a bachelor or higher degree (+371 persons).
4.4.3 Employment and Labour Force Structure

- The number of people employed in the Kempsey LGA grew (+339 persons) and the number of unemployed declined (-286).

**Change in employment status, 2006 to 2011**

Kempsey Shire - Total persons in the labour force

- Excluding the detainees at MNCCC, a smaller proportion of people aged over 15 in the Aldavilla SS were in the labour force (30.5%) compared to Yarravel SS (53.1%), the Kempsey LGA (45.3%) the State (59.7%).

- 5.1% of persons in Aldavilla SS were unemployed, compared to 5.8% in Yarravel SS and 8.9% in the Kempsey LGA.

- The most common industries for employed persons living in the Aldavilla SS and Yarravel SS were retail trade (16.8% and 16.7%) and health care and social assistance (17.7% and 13.4%). This was also the case for the Kempsey LGA were health care and social assistance services (15.4%) and retail trade (13.6%) where the most common industries for employment.
4.4.4 Economic Characteristics

The ABS have developed four indexes, known as Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) which provide an indication of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area, relative to other areas. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. The Index of Socio Economic Advantage and Disadvantage is a general socio-economic index created through a summary of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. Generally, a higher score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage and a greater advantage in general. A higher score can be a result of many households with high incomes or many people in skilled occupations as well as few households living in the area with low incomes or few people working in unskilled occupations.
SEIFA 2011 scores are outlined below in Table 6 to provide an indication of the relative level of advantage and disadvantage within the Aldavilla SS, the Yarravel SS and the Kempsey LGA.

Table 6: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Decile</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldavilla SS</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarravel SS</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldavilla SS</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarravel SS</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile.

- The results for the 2011 Index of Disadvantage show that the Kempsey LGA has a Socio-Economic Disadvantage score of 880, which places it in the lowest 9% of the State compared to other LGAs.
- The Yarravel SS is relatively more disadvantaged and less advantaged in general compared to other suburbs within Australia. The Kempsey LGA is also more disadvantaged and less advantaged in general compared to other LGAs in Australia.
Figure 1 IRSD 2011 SA1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, SEIFA 2011
5. Social Effects

5.1 Introduction

The expansion of correctional centres can cause concern in communities, in relation to the perceived social impacts. This review is based on background research, compilation of a demographic profile and a review of the findings and recommendations of the 2007 post-occupancy socio-economic impact assessment.

Issues that are commonly relevant to correctional centres include the perceptions of safety and security, population change within local communities, effects on transportation services, health services, education and child care, Indigenous communities as well as local economic impacts.

In the case of the subject development it is relevant to note that:

- the proposed development is an extension within the site of an existing correctional centre;
- the proposed buildings and the building platforms will still enjoy a setback from the surrounding land;
- the facility will have a perimeter security zone that meets NSW Correctional Service standards;
- activities will be managed by qualified Corrective Services Industries staff and the community will not be exposed to any undue risk; and
- the proposed development is within the confines of an existing correctional centre and is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of the surrounding residential areas (as outlined in the REF).

The review has been informed by the outcomes of discussions with key stakeholders and community representatives. Relevant key findings from the general community consultation notification are included in this SEIA, with a summary contained in the REF prepared by JBA.

5.2 Local Community Concerns

A local notification exercise, conducted as part of the preparation of the REF revealed few key concerns arising from local residents in relation to the proposal. These concerns related to:

- Employment opportunities for the local community;
- The impact of families of inmates relocating to the area and the effect this will have on the availability of housing and increase in crime and unemployment;
- The effect of discharged prisoners remaining in the area and the associated increase in crime;
- The creation of suitable facilities on site to cater for inmate’s medical needs rather than outsourcing to local hospitals;
- The provision for suitable religious facilities and multi-faith services to operate within the Centre;
• The impact of visitors to inmates visiting the local area;
• Inadequate security resulting in prison escapes and the infiltration of contraband; and
• The reduction in property values;

In response to the issues raised the NSW Department of Justice has considered the concerns and has and will continue to implement a number of actions in relation to the key concerns raised. A number of items are addressed in the REF and include:

• The impact the proposed facility will have on local traffic;
• The visual impact of the proposed expansion; and
• The increased level of noise generated, in particular regards to the PA system;

5.3 Concerns over Safety and Security Relating to Escapes

In general, concerns for safety and security by communities is a common issue raised during consultation for prison developments.

5.3.1 NSW Trends in Correctional Centre Security - Escape and Abscond Statistics

Managed by CSNSW, a Census of NSW Inmates is conducted on an annual basis to include an assessment on all NSW inmates, held in full time custody and of inmates with a 'live' order for periodic detention. The data presented is sourced from Corrective Services NSW with reliance upon the NSW Inmate Census. Whilst noting that the figures in relation to escapes and absconds are last reported in 2012/13 the data is the best available to assist in basing an analysis.

As shown in Table 7 below, escapes from maximum and medium security centres have remained uniformly low since over recent years. Whilst one escape recorded during 2012/13 occurred from within a maximum security facility, there were zero escapes from within medium security facility and the remainder from minimum security facilities and during some form of escorted or unescorted release period, such as a work release program.

Minimum security detainees largely comprise minor offenders and those nearing the end of their sentences. Minimum security institutions hold inmates who can generally be trusted in open conditions where there are fewer physical barriers to escape. An escape or attempted escape will more often result in movement of the inmate to a more secure institution.
Table 7: Trends in escapes by security level/program; 2002/03 to 2012/2013.

<table>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From within maximum security</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From within medium security</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>From within minimum security</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area adjacent to a maximum or medium security</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malabar fines unit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escorted external work party</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escorted external sport/education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escorted - other (e.g. hospital)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day/weekend leave</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unescorted education programs</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work release programs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other unescorted authorised absence</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court complex</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport (including transfers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodic detention</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate per 100 offender years</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSW Department of Corrective Services Statistical Report 2012/13, Table 18a

Whilst there was an increase in the rate of escapes in 2010-2011 overall the rate of escapes across NSW has remained consistently low over the last ten years. This is despite the full-time population of correctional centres increasing by 25% during the same period, from 8,154 inmates in 2002 to 10,933 in 2015.
From late 1988, additional strategies designed to decrease the number of escapes were introduced across NSW. These included building more fences, increasing supervision of inmates in minimum security camps and legislation to increase the penalty for escape. Case management practices have also helped in proactively identifying and dealing with issues that may lead to a desire to escape prior to an escape occurring.

5.3.1.1 Reasons for Escape

Internationally, there is relatively little published literature analysing prison escapes, and many of the studies available are based on dated data. The most recent study undertaken in NSW was a longitudinal study by the Research and Statistics Unit of the CSNSW over the period 1985 to 1992 to identify the reasons inmates escape. This study reported that about half the respondents said they escaped because of family (or similar) problems outside, and about a fifth of the respondents said they had escaped because of pressure from other inmates. Many escapes are spontaneous - over half had been planning the escape for less than a day. The following table shows the percentage of the recaptured escapees to whom interview forms were sent who reported they had escaped for each category of reason.

Table 8: Reason for Escapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Date of Escape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre 88/89 (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Problems</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats from Other Inmates</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure Use/Carry Drugs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain Drugs/Alcohol</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict with Staff</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could Not Cope with Imprisonment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Want to be Transferred</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parole/Extradition/Deportation Concerns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuaded by Companion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused Interview</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form Not Returned</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DCS Research and Statistics Unit, 1996

Concern about a problem at home was the most common reason for escape. Specifically, concerns ranged from crisis situations (for example, the inmate’s wife was suffering from post-natal depression and had twice attempted suicide) to wanting to find out why visits had stopped.

For an appreciable number of escapes, the reason given was that the inmate feared for his safety. There were also escapes related to drug use where the inmate was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of escape or claimed to have escaped to avoid pressure to use drugs in the correctional centre.

Some inmates claimed they escaped because of anger at their treatment by the Department, for example transfers without notice. However, many responses seemed to indicate the
decision to escape was made on the spur of the moment, either as a response to a general dislike of imprisonment, or for a reason the inmate was not willing to state.

In a handful of escapes, the inmate had been accidentally late returning from leave.

The Research and Statistics Unit noted that it was often difficult to deduce the reason for escape from the abridged questionnaires. Also, in quite a large percentage of cases no completed questionnaire was received.

Characteristics of escapees in NSW or Australia have not been reported, however studies in the US have found that there is significant relationship between escape and both age and committing offence, with younger offenders more likely to escape, but no significant relationship between escape and race or sex.

5.3.1.2 Offending Behaviour

The 1992 NSW study found that three quarters of escapees were not convicted of any offences whilst at large, a finding which has been supported through other studies of court statistics in both NSW and the US.

Information provided by Corrective Services NSW’ Research and Statistics Unit indicates that between July 1988 and June 2000, 80% of escaped inmates were not convicted of any offence while at large. Offences committed by those who were convicted included break, enter and steal, driving while disqualified, and motor vehicle theft. Assault and use of arms or offensive weapons is relatively uncommon.

An Article published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology entitled ‘Escapes from new south wales gaols: placing the risk in perspective’ provides further evidence to suggest that more than one-quarter of escapees are recaptured on either the day of escape or the following day and that majority of escapees (74.2%) were not convicted of committing any crimes or offences while at large.

Data on the recapture of escapees is less accurate and relatively little detailed study has been undertaken. One finding from an analysis of data in the United States has found that the capture rate improves as the security level increases, for example 69% from work release programs, 84% from low-security and minimum security facilities and 92% from medium security and high-security facilities.

5.3.1.3 Time to Plan Escape

Most recaptured escapees involved in the 1992 NSW study had planned their escape for less than a day, with 85% planning it for less than a week.

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18 Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology December 1991 vol. 24 no. 3 204-218
19 The Department of Corrective Services’ Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics Unit intends to explore the motivation behind inmate escapes and the potential risk these inmates pose to the community as part of a second planned stage of the "Trends in escapes" project (Department of Corrective Services, “Trends in escapes from NSW Department of Correctives custody”, Research Bulletin No. 22, November 2006, p. 2)
### Table 9: Time to Plan Escape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Plan Escape</th>
<th>Pre 88/89 (%)</th>
<th>88/89 to 91/92 (%)</th>
<th>92/93 Onwards (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month +</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
- Day = less than a full day
- Week = a day or more, but less than a week
- Month = a week or more, but less than a month
- Month + = a month or more

Source: DCS Research and Statistics Unit, 1996

#### 5.3.1.4 Methods to Minimise Safety and Concerns

Previous studies of correctional centres undertaken by BBC Planners reveal that community concerns are somewhat alleviated by a clear understanding of a correctional centre’s inmate security classification and the centre’s security measures and operations. With increased sense of security with the knowledge that there is a reduced likelihood of inmate escape from maximum security forms of detention\(^{21}\).

Currently, a range of security measures are employed by the centre to restrict and control the movement of inmates and as a result of the proposed additions, the MNCCC security system will be upgraded to include an additional perimeter fence with anti-climb barrel, electronic sterile zone detection systems, fence alarms, more CCTV cameras and thermal and motion detection systems to cater for the new expansion zone, in order to reduce the risk of escapes.

#### 5.3.1.5 Recidivism

There is a common perception among correctional centre host communities that inmates will remain in the area upon release and are a higher risk of re-offending.

A combination of previous research and strategic directives employed and implemented by CSNSW suggests that few inmates remain in the area upon release (see section 5.4 of this report). However, should an inmate remain in the area upon release (usually having been a resident prior to incarceration), CSNSW have implemented a range of interventions and programs within correctional facilities and community centres state wide, which seek to address the risk factors associated with re-offending which resulted in the following statistical rates for participation in programs and industries:

- “In 2012–13, there was a significant improvement in completion rates for Corrective Services’ aggression and violence programs, with 63.4 per cent of all participants completing the program in custody and the community. An increase of 7.1 per cent from the previous year.

- In 2012–13, the completion rates for alcohol, drugs, and addiction programs increased from 61.9 per cent in 2011–12 to 66.9 per cent. This is an excellent result as substance

dependent offenders, by the very nature of their addiction and lifestyles, are often very difficult to engage and keep in treatment programs.

- In 2012–13, the number of offenders participating in community engagement programs increased significantly, by 42 per cent. This result reflected Corrective Services’ increased focus on reintegration and release planning.

- In 2012–13, Corrective Services Industries (CSI) continued to support the objective of reducing re-offending by providing real work opportunities in 98 commercial business units and 62 service industries within 26 correctional centres. CSI focuses on increasing the number of inmate traineeships and work opportunities to enable inmates to gain employment in the community on their release from custody\textsuperscript{22}.

Having regard to the above, a range of measures have been developed and implemented at the Centre and within the community to assist with the integration of inmates back into the community upon release in order to reduce the risk of re-offending. With the understanding that there can be effective, long lasting change to behaviour of inmates who participate in education, training and rehabilitation programs\textsuperscript{23} targeted programs have been developed such as the Family Investment Model and Breaking the Cycle interagency groups meet on a regular basis to target both family intervention strategies as well as coordinated involvement from education, housing and health departments to reduce incidents of re-offence.

5.3.2 Impacts of the Proposed Medium Security Facility

As mentioned previously, escapes from maximum and medium security centres have remained uniformly low since 2001-2002 with escapes most commonly occurring from minimum security facilities, during some form of escorted or unescorted release period. In this regard, the existing centre as well as the proposed medium security facility will be appropriately secured for prisoners of this security classification to ensure there is low risk of escapes.

Staff at all levels at the correctional centre will continue to receive comprehensive security training. In addition, it is recommended that the established Emergency Response Plan for the existing correctional centre is updated to ensure the procedures to be followed in the event of an escape or abscond and the notification procedure for neighbours and the surrounding community are reviewed and updated where necessary.

Currently, there is no work release programme operating from the centre however, CSNSW have indicated that the Centre will be considering suitable options within the coming months that would help facilitate a work release program. Work release programs are primarily targeted to those inmates of minimum security classification, deemed a low risk to the community. In this regard, there will be no medium security prisoners permitted to work outside of the complex.


5.4 Concerns about Effects on Community

5.4.1 Correctional Centre Trends- Families of Inmates Moving into Correctional Centre Host Communities

Previous studies have shown that community concerns can relate to the increased likelihood of families of inmates relocating to the local area and the subsequent impact that this would have on community services and facilities. As was the case with the 2007 post-occupancy assessment of the MNCCC it was found that very few families and friends of inmates had moved to the Kempsey area to be closer to the centre.

It was also noted that in 2007 approximately 60% of inmates were from the Kempsey region, reducing the potential for families of inmates to move to the area of Kempsey. It is understood that it is still the case with a large proportion of inmates at the MNCCC originally from within the Kempsey region, encompassing areas as far west as Narrabri and Moree, north to Grafton and south towards Port Macquarie.

However, it is also understood that inmates are also transferred from other Centres in NSW given the multi-classification of the Centre and programs and services offered. It is unlikely that certainty can be provided as to the length of stay for an inmate at the Centre given:

- Inmate preferences;
- Inmates on remand;
- Unhealthy associations;
- The need for specialist management treatment;
- Personality conflicts;

Which may result in an inmate being relocated.

5.4.2 Rationale for the Low Incidence of Families of Prisoners Moving into the Area

As was reported in 2007, it is still the case that there are common reasons for the low incidence of family relocation. This is because:

- There is an uncertainty of the length of stay due to the rotation of inmates between institutions. Movement may occur as a result of the inmates “programmed pathway”, reclassification of security level, prisoner preference, prevention of unhealthy associations, changing management policies at the prison, personality conflicts, and so on;
- The correctional centre is open for visits on weekends only. This makes it possible for visits to the MNCCC as a day or overnight trip from Sydney, involving an approximate 5-hour drive in each direction. NSW Transport provide a service to the township of Kempsey via train from both Newcastle and Port Macquarie. The MNCCC then provides a courtesy bus from designated areas in Kempsey to the Centre in order to assist people using public transport.
Waiting lists for public housing tenants in Sydney have increased with the estimated time required before housing is allocated estimated to be ten years. As was the case in 2007 any public housing tenants, accepting a property in Kempsey would be required to re-join a waiting list.

Families of inmates have the need for assistance from established social networks, and often prefer to remain in a familiar environment;

Economic and social difficulties such as rehousing, changing schools or jobs and loss of friends and family are still disincentives to relocation.

The construction of regional facilities has enabled inmates to be placed at institutions generally closer to their former place of residence or near their families thus reducing the need for families to move to be close to inmates.

It is anticipated that as a result of the expansion the rate of families of prisoners moving into the area is likely to remain low however, it is recommended this again be monitored by relevant agencies, particularly centre management and the Department of Housing to ensure appropriate management of issues if they arise.

5.4.3 Likelihood of families of Inmates Moving into the Area

Commonly held fears with the siting of a new correctional centre or in this case, proposed additions to an existing correctional centre is the potential ‘influx’ of inmate families relocating to prison host communities and the subsequent impact this would have on community services and facilities.

Having regard to the impacts of the existing correctional centre, the visitor survey undertaken as part of the 2007 SEIA found that one respondent (of a total of 31 respondents) had moved to the area, prior to 2004, to be close to the MNCCC. The Department of Housing also reported having received very few enquiries from families of inmates wishing to relocate to the Kempsey area and statistics indicated that there had not been an increase in waiting lists for public housing since 2003, prior to the MNCCC opening.24

Given the proposal is for the expansion of an existing correctional facility, it is unlikely that there would be a significant number of people moving to the local area as a result of a family member being imprisoned at the MNCCC. Discussions reveal the current demand for affordable housing in the Kempsey region does not directly correlate to the presence of the MNCCC. Further to this, the research and consultation to date suggests it is likely that the same influences will result in similarly low levels of families relocating to the Kempsey area. In addition, if the visiting hours continue to be restricted to weekends only it is also likely to limit the number of families or partners of inmates relocating to Kempsey.

24 Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by BBC Planners, 2007.
5.4.4 Impact of visitors to inmates and increased crime rates

Prison induced crime is a common perception amongst correctional centre host communities. The belief that crime will increase as a result of visitors of inmates visiting the area was an issue raised by stakeholders during the preparation of the REF.

In 2007 it was found there had been a 17% reduction in the rates of the eight most prevalent crimes in the area between 2003 and 2006 (during which time the MNCCC was opened) with the only crime to increase in the Kempsey area was that of Malicious Damage, rising by 1% and reflective of the overall rise in this type of crime across NSW.

It was commented during the 2007 study that there was difficulty in establishing with certainty the impact a correctional centre has on crime rates in an area however, it appeared at the time that the establishment of the MNCCC had little to no negative impact on crime in the Kempsey area.

5.4.5 Crime Trend Analysis - Kempsey

Analysis of updated crime trend data indicates that the ongoing operation of the MNCCC has continued to have little impact on crime rates in the Kempsey LGA. The majority of incidents show downward trends (July 2004 – June 2016) with only incidents of drug offences increasing within the LGA, consistent with the overall NSW trend.

Looking at the current NSW crime trends for the Kempsey LGA it can be seen that the area is not considered to be an area containing a significant number of incidents of:

- Malicious damage to property has gone down 5.1% per year in the Kempsey LGA (between July 2004 and June 2016) which is consistent with the downward trend for the NSW State (down 5% per year).
- Incidents of assault have gone down 3% per year in the Kempsey LGA (between July 2004 and June 2016) whilst in NSW, such incidents have declined by 1.9%.
- Incidents of theft have gone down 2.5% per year in the Kempsey LGA (between July 2004 and June 2016).
- Incidents of sexual offence have remained stable in the Kempsey LGA.
- Incidents of drug offences have gone up 2.8% per year within the Kempsey LGA which is slightly lower than the increase in incidents of drug offences in NSW which has risen 8.4% per year (between July 2004 and June 2016).
- Incidents of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisances have remained stable within the Kempsey LGA (between July 2004 and June 2016).
- Incidents of Liquor offences have gone down 17.1% in the Kempsey LGA (between July 2004 and June 2016).

As can be seen from the graphs below, figures are consistent with the 2007 findings indicating there has been no significant increase in incidents of crime following the opening of the Centre in 2004.
Graph 1: Incidents of Assault in Kempsey Local Government Area, from June 2004 – June 2016


Graph 2: Incidents of Malicious damage to property in selected suburbs, from July 2006 to June 2016


5.4.6 Police Resourcing

During the preparation of the SEIA in 2007, consultation with the West Kempsey Police was undertaken in order to consider any impacts on the additional demand for services following the opening of the Centre in 2004. The consultation confirmed that the West Kempsey Police did not experience any additional demand for services as a result of the 2004 expansion at MNCCC and did not anticipate this to occur as a result of the proposed development.

West Kempsey Police have indicated that the proposed expansion of the MNCCC will not place any further pressure on existing Police resources. The additional beds provided at the MNCCC will ensure people are not kept in holding cells or police cells awaiting transfer to court or other correctional facilities.

Visits to inmates at correctional centres are tightly controlled through appointments only and are subject to security and identification checks on arrival at the Centre. In accordance with CSNSW policy for Visits to Inmates and Correctional Centres, all visitors are required to provide various forms of identification and where a Biometric Identification Device (BID) is
installed, must also supply fingerprints and a photograph to be placed on file. Targeted searches are also undertaken by NSW Police at the MNCCC whereby visitors are searched using drug-detection dogs to intercept contraband entering correctional facilities and reduce the availability of drugs and other contraband in the local area.

Overall, whilst there appears to be a number of stereotypes associated with inmate families, the general comment should be made that the majority of visitors to inmates are law abiding citizens. There is no evidence that suggest prisons are significant contributors to crime in the host communities or wider communities.

5.4.7 Likelihood of Discharged Prisoners Remaining in the Area

As with the concern over personal safety, there can be concerns that crime will increase as a result of the presence of ex-inmates who decide to remain in the community after release. However, as was found in 2007 assessment of the MNCCC, unless already a resident prior to incarceration, it is understood that few inmates choose to establish residency in the local area after their release.

Strategic directives implemented by CSNSW provide assistance to inmates with post-release services in areas such as housing, arrangement of welfare payment through co-operation and partnerships with government and non-government agencies. To assist in the re-integration of an inmate into society, transport is also arranged for an inmate to return to their home upon release. Arrangements can often be made (prior to release) with housing authorities within the inmate’s local area. Such assistance with an inmates release indicates that there is no apparent reason for an inmate to remain in the area should Kempsey not be their home of residence prior to incarceration.

As was discussed in the 2007 study, the MNCCC continues to operate in accordance with a Release Strategy, prepared in consultation with the CCC. This strategy has been designed to maximise the support given to inmates on their release and minimise the potential negative impacts on the surrounding community.

It is recommended that this MNCCC Release Strategy is updated in response to the expansion in consultation with the CCC and any relevant Prison Servicing Interagency group to discuss and manage issues specifically relevant to the steps and barriers faced for inmates and service agencies in establishing a smooth transition from the centre upon release.

Consultation during the 2007 SEIA revealed that the Department of Housing in co-ordination with other housing providers in the Kempsey area, had made arrangements for medium-short term accommodation in one of the local caravan parks for a number of released inmates. Due to privacy reasons, it was inconclusive as to whether those inmates assisted were residents within the Kempsey area prior to incarceration. Consultation with the Department of Housing during the preparation of this assessment again found that there were difficulties in accurately recording the number of inmates who resided in the Kempsey area prior to incarceration. Although it is unlikely that many people would choose to remain in the area upon release without the support of family and friend networks.

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25 Corrective Services New South Wales, SECTION 15.1 – 24, Visits to Inmates and Correctional Centres, pg., 10
Accordingly, the number of inmates of the new facility settling in the area following release is expected to be minimal. Whilst there is no current evidence to suggest that there will be any significant increase in the number of inmates from the proposed facility who will choose to stay in the area or who will commit crimes in the area immediately upon release Corrective Services are aware of the concern raised by stakeholders. Consequently, Corrective Services has made a commitment to monitor the issues and work with Kempsey Council to establish effective strategies to minimise potential impacts. Regular discussions are to be held on an ongoing basis as the project progresses to ensure there is minimal impact on the local Kempsey Community as a result of the proposed expansion.

5.4.8 Other Effects on the Community

Community consultation undertaken by NSW Justice also identified a number of other concerns by the community with the proposed facility. Three of the main concerns raised related to the impact the proposed facility will have on traffic in the local community, the level of noise from the PA system, noise in general as well as the visual impact of the proposal. These issues are addressed in the respective reports prepared by consultants as part of the REF.

5.5 Stigma and Possible Flow-on Effects

5.5.1 Image

A common concern for correctional centre host communities is that the town or region’s image will be affected by its association with the centre. As was found in 2007 the establishment of the MNCCC has led to a more positive image of the town amongst its residents, contrary to the expectations of representatives across community service sectors prior to the development of the Centre. It was found that major industries of employment had continue to expand and tourism growth suggested that industries and visitors had not been deterred by the presence of the MNCCC.

Since 2007, major industries for employment within Kempsey including agriculture, health care and social assistance, retail trade, education and training, and accommodation and food services (tourism) have continued to grow\(^{26}\). The tourism sector has grown by over 10% over the past three years and several major capital projects have been completed in the area including the $2.5m upgrade at Kempsey Airport; the $80m upgrade of Kempsey Hospital and a $3.6m town centre revitalisation project\(^{27}\). Other major industries creating employment opportunities within Kempsey include a major Puma Highway Service Centre which opened in the first half of 2015, bringing with it over 100 new jobs and a new large lot industrial estate strategically located on the South Kempsey corridor which opened in 2015.

Overall, evidence of continued economic development over time suggests the location of the existing MNCCC has not affected Kempsey in terms of image or stigma and is not likely to in the future as a consequence of the proposed expansion to the facility. Furthermore, given that


the proposal is for new facilities on the site of an existing centre, there is likely to be little cumulative impact on community perceptions as a result of the proposal.

5.5.2 Impact on Tourism

The Kempsey township is defined by the Macleay River and is known for its commercial and heritage characteristics. Given the strategic location just left of the Pacific Highway, the town is regarded more as a service town, refuelling points and overnight travel stops rather than for its tourism attractions.28

In 2007 it was found that the MNCCC had not had a noticeable impact on tourism to Kempsey. This is still the case with the number of international visitors to the LGA increasing considerably since 200929. Visitor and accommodation profiles for LGA’s across NSW are prepared by Destination NSW. Key measures for the Kempsey LGA between 2011 - 2014 and NSW are detailed in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Tourism Visitation Numbers by Kempsey LGA – Profile

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Visitor (nights)</td>
<td>27,187</td>
<td>79,482</td>
<td>41,950</td>
<td>44,640</td>
<td>80,523</td>
<td>42,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Visitor (nights)</td>
<td>1,043,909</td>
<td>1,063,767</td>
<td>1,045,928</td>
<td>1,155,070</td>
<td>956,792</td>
<td>1,103,179</td>
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Source: Economy.id (2016)

* Note: Data is based on a small sample size and may not be statistically accurate.

According to Economy.id, the main reasons for a trip to the Kempsey Shire were for visiting friends and relatives and for a holiday purposes. Comments in relation to the proposed expansion indicate the new additions may have a positive impact on the area, as it is likely to bring increased numbers of visitors and thus increased expenditure which may not have occurred in the absence of such a Centre. Such benefits of the new additions at the Centre are likely to be felt within the township of Kempsey. As mentioned previously within the report, the centre experiences approximately 800 visits to inmates per month which is expected to rise in accordance with the centres expansion.

5.6 Effect on Accommodation and Housing

5.6.1 Visitor Accommodation

Current information from the centre indicates that on average, MNCCC has approximately 100 visits per day each weekend. It is understood that as many inmates are currently from within the local region, few visitors are expected to require overnight accommodation.

While an assumption can be made that the majority of the additional inmates to the prison as a result of the expansion are also likely to be coming from within the Macleay valley region, some inmates may be transferred to the centre from other regions, to effectively manage

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30 As advised by MNCCC management.
institutional populations or, so that the prisoner is within an environment consistent with their security requirements and/or to allow them to participate in correctional programs and/or other interventions as identified in their case management plan. Accordingly, visitors will travel from within the region with some most likely, from outer Sydney metropolitan areas. Those visitors visiting the centre that are not local are likely to require over-night accommodation.

The following types of visitor accommodation located nearest to the Centre are within Kempsey, West Kempsey, South Kempsey and Aldavilla and include the following:

- 6 Motels/Hotels;
- 2 B&B; and
- 3 Caravan Park.

The 2007 MNCCC survey revealed the largest proportion of visitors to inmates chose to stay at a motel, followed by friends or relatives. Whilst a survey has not been conducted in conjunction with this assessment targeted stakeholder discussions reveal this is still likely to be the case, with the majority of visitors choosing to stay in a motel rather than lower cost, caravan park accommodation.

5.6.1.1 Motels

There are approximately 5 motels located within the local township of Kempsey, approximately 6km east of the MNCCC. The 5 motels offering accommodation within the area range from approximately $75 to $123 per night for a standard double room.

As a result of the consultation undertaken as part of this study, the manager of Park Drive Motel, indicated that they often receive bookings for accommodation during weekends from families of inmates. It was noted that bookings would usually involve a stay of 1-2 nights at a rate of $123 per night. In addition to the motel rooms, the manager also indicated that they have a caravan park adjoining the motel. The manager recalls having rented 2-3 caravans to parolees from the correctional centre for a period of 1-2 weeks ($175 per week). Overall the Motel has not experienced any problems in general with either families or parolees during their stay which is consistent with the findings from the 2007 SEIA.

Motel Kempsey also confirmed that families of inmates visiting the area are common during weekend periods. The manager confirmed that whilst the motel has had no issue with families of inmates, the Skyline Motel which is also operated and run by the same manager provides stays on a more permanent basis which tends to attract parolees. The manager indicated that they are now hesitant to accept bookings from parolees due to a number of issues in the past. Overall, the manager welcomes the proposed expansion due to the economic benefits as a result of people visiting the area.

5.6.1.2 Caravan Park

The 2007 SEIA noted that there was a limited stock of low cost visitor accommodation within the area of Kempsey and as a result, caravan parks were likely alternative for people and families of inmates visiting the area. However, the post-occupancy visitor survey at the MNCCC found that only two visitors surveyed indicated that they stayed in a caravan park when visiting the Correctional Facility representing 6.5% of all visitors surveyed, or 11% of all visitors...
surveyed who used accommodation. Both groups staying at the caravan park had children with them.

There are currently three caravan parks located in the Kempsey area, offering a combination of short-term and semi-permanent accommodation in caravans and a small proportion of cabins. Overnight accommodation at one of these parks ranges from approximately $25-$70 per night.

Discussions with the Central Caravan Park revealed that majority of people currently residing in the park are living there on a permanent basis and in some cases are there as a result of requests for emergency accommodation provided by the Department of Housing. The caravan park is said to have had a number of issues with existing permanent residents, some of which are parolees. In this regard, the staff member indicated that the caravan park was nearing full capacity and that additional demand as a result of the MNCCC expansion cannot currently be catered for.

The feedback received from the Central Caravan Park was consistent with that received from the manager at Tall Timbers Caravan Park whom indicated that the park receives a high proportion of parolees currently residing at the park (some on a permanent basis) and people that are benefiting from emergency accommodation provided by the Department of Housing, New Horizons and other welfare providers. The caravan park has had a number of issues with some of the parolees but also acknowledged that others had been no trouble at all. Overall, the caravan park is running at near capacity and currently, provides accommodation for a large proportion of people seeking emergency accommodation.

Comparatively, the manager from the Kempsey Tourist Village was only aware of a 'handful' of people coming to stay at the caravan park that were visiting a family member at the Correctional Centre. The manager was not aware of any parolees staying at the caravan park and could not recall any requests from welfare and housing organisations, including the Department of Housing seeking to place people requiring emergency accommodation. Overall, the manager has had no issues with families of inmates staying at the caravan park.

The consultation suggests that two of the three caravan parks are running at capacity and whilst these parks don’t anticipate any effect on their services as a result of the correctional centre expansion, the caravan parks currently cater for a large proportion of people that are benefiting from emergency accommodation. In this regard, any additional demand for emergency accommodation, specifically relating to inmates requiring housing assistance following release from the MNCCC will need to be considered by relevant key agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Housing and the Kempsey Community Corrections Office.

It is recommended that the effective monitoring and management of the impact of the expansion on local accommodation providers and housing demand is coordinated through Prison Servicing Interagency group allowing a regular forum for the exchange of issues and ideas in response to the management and operation of the service providers in connection with the Centre.

31 Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by BBC Planners, 2007, pg28.
5.6.2 Emergency and Short-Term Accommodation

As reported in the 2007 SEIA, Kempsey was and is presently undersupplied with emergency accommodation. Two short-term crisis facilities in Kempsey were consulted with in 2007 and included the Macleay Youth Accommodation Service (Kempsey Youth Refuge) and the Women and Children’s Refuge. Since 2007, the number of welfare services in Kempsey that provide emergency accommodation has increased to three due to the establishment of New Horizons, located at Belgrave Street, Kempsey.

As reported in 2007, the establishment of the MNCCC had little to no impact on emergency and short-term accommodation providers. It is still the case that referrals for emergency and short-term accommodation are still made by the Department of Housing, Family and Community Services. The proposed expansion is unlikely to have a direct impact on these accommodation providers given the allocation protocols and entrance criteria required to be met. It is understood the Department has arrangements with a number of motels and caravan parks in the area, whereby it covers the cost of accommodating people who could not otherwise afford to stay in this form of temporary accommodation. Temporary accommodation is offered to homeless clients and extended if the client complies with the Terms and Conditions of Temporary Accommodation, that being they are actively attempting to resolve their housing need.

The findings of the 2007 study are consistent with the findings of this study with emergency accommodation providers noting that such services are designed to assist youth or women and children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence or other crisis situations, and as such, the presence of the MNCCC continues to have no perceived impact on the services provided to youth within the area. This is not anticipated to change as a result of the expansion.

5.6.3 Transitional Housing Program

Currently the Department of Housing has a close working relationship with the MNCCC, coordinating information open days and interagency meetings in order to effectively discuss and manage housing needs for inmates upon release. The Department is keen to continue the relationships with opportunities for expanded pathways to employment to be explored in conjunction with housing needs issues to assist with greater reintegration into communities for inmates following their release.

Future programs identified to assist with the ongoing management of needs of inmates include the establishment of training, education and employment open days in conjunction with housing to ensure holistic information dissemination and coordinated management of inmates needs and interests.

It is noted that whilst there is high demand in general for emergency accommodation and affordable housing within the area the expansion of the Centre has potential to assist with employment opportunities for those in need within the community. The impacts on crime rates as well as increased demand for housing is recommended to be monitored and managed, potentially through interagency groups that are equipped to provide innovative, coordinated responses to issues if they arise.
5.7 Effect on Health Service

Justice Health provides health services to the Centre currently, employing medical, nursing and allied health staff.

5.7.1 Effect on Hospital Services

Custodial health provides a comprehensive health service to inmates of Correctional Centres. However, public hospitals are used to treat inmates requiring acute or emergency treatment. It is understood that the transfer of inmates from the MNCCC is likely to be the Kempsey District Hospital, in the Kempsey township, approximately 10km east of Kempsey.

Currently, inmates are transferred to and from hospital for treatment via prison escort transport or by ambulance as required. There are currently no safe assessment rooms or transit lounges available at the Kempsey District Hospital and patients are managed through guard supervision.

It is understood that as a result of the proposed prison expansion, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in demand for health services as a result of the increase in inmates at MNCCC. In addition, those inmates that will reside in the area on release may require on-going treatment as a result of specialist healthcare programs which is likely to place further demands on local healthcare providers.

NSW Justice Health have anticipated the increase in demand for health services in regional NSW as a result of the rise in the adult custodial population in NSW since 2013 and the projected increase in the custodial population within the coming years. Whilst the details with respect to the projected increase in number of inmates requiring medical treatment at the Kempsey District Hospital is unknown at this stage, appropriate management of the impacts will be undertaken with the coordinated response by both NSW Justice Health and Mid North Coast Area Health Service. The long-term effects of the expansion of the MNCCC have been noted and early consultation by NSW Justice Health is underway, addressing the potential impact.

Longer term impacts of the proposal can be planned for with the possibility of establishing new safe assessment rooms and transit lounges for inmates as well as the consideration of building a secure unit for inmates at the hospital to ensure inmates are treated efficiently in a safe and secure environment.

Further to the above, ongoing communication between Centre Management, NSW Justice Health and Aboriginal Health Organisations will be required in order to assess the increase in demand for the on-going treatment of inmates following their release from the Centre, particularly in regards to any long-term treatment plan established whilst they are located at the Centre.

It is understood that NSW Justice Health has commenced discussions with a number of Local Health Districts in relation to the prison bed capacity program to ensure the impact of the additions to centres is appropriately planned for. Discussions with the Mid North Coast Local Health District are likely to take place 12 months prior to the additions to the MNCCC becoming operational. Principal issues to be discussed on an ongoing basis include:

- Details of where inmates are to be received within the hospital;
• Procedures and briefing provided to hospital staff prior to an inmate being received at the hospital;
• Review of case admittance to monitor the impact on the number of emergency presentations to the Kempsey Hospital and level of care required.

5.8 Effect on Education

The 2007 assessment found that a small number of staff working at the Centre with children (6 families) had moved to the Kempsey area following the establishment of the Centre. With only a few children of staff enrolling in local schools there had been no additional unmet demands placed on local public schools as a result of the establishment of the Centre.

Having regard to the above, Kempsey currently offers a range of education services to the local communities including:

- Aldavilla Primary School
- Green Hill Primary School
- Kempsey Adventist School
- Kempsey West Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School
- Kempsey High School
- Melville High School
- St Paul's College
- TAFE - Kempsey Campus
- River Street Early Learning Centre
- Scribbly Gum Dalaigur Pre-School
- Cubbyhouse Preschool
- Kempsey Kindy
- Goodstart Early Learning – West Kempsey
- Shine for Kids, Aldavilla

5.8.1 Impact on Childcare Facilities

During the preparation of the SEIA in 2007, it was reported that there was little impact on demand and availability of childcare and pre-school facilities as a result of the establishment of the MNCCC. The greatest demand appeared to have been from children of employees at the Centre.

Current investigations reveal the existing childcare centres have some capacity for additional enrolments. Given the increased demand for childcare could be met with the establishment of the Centre in 2004 it is anticipated that as a result of the expansion that any increase in demand for childcare will be able to be met given there is currently capacity at most centres.
5.8.2 Shine for Kids

Shine for Kids is a not for profit child and family centre located adjacent to the MNCCC. The opening hours for Shine for Kids is Monday - Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm and Saturday and Sundays 8.45am – 2.45pm.

Shine for Kids facilities, located within Correction Centres across NSW provides in-visit programs for families; child and parent days as well as for ‘Colourful Dreaming’, an Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander support program that allows inmates from the centre and their children to engage through cultural and artistic activities. The program is heavily dependent on volunteers to assist with the operation of the facilities.

As is the case with other Shine for Kids facilities including that located at MNCCC, it is understood that the Kempsey Shine for Kids is currently looking to recruit volunteers to assist with the continuity of the program.

Due to the lack of volunteer staff, the Kempsey Shine for Kids is currently only able to facilitate ‘in-visit’ services which is accessible to all children aged 0-18years during visitation hours as well as Child/Parent Activity day which runs once every three months.

It is recommended that centre management, the Community Consultative Committee and Shine for Kids (an NGO) explore opportunities for volunteer or part-time staff that can cater for both current and future child care demand, particularly during inmate visitation hours.

5.8.3 Impact on Primary and High Schools

During the preparation of the 2007 SEIA, it was reported that enrolments in primary and high schools had remained relatively stable over the period of establishment of the MNCCC. The findings of the consultation in 2007 indicated that the presence of the MNCCC had not lead to any undue pressure on the capacity of local schools but more so, an increase in enrolments at non-government schools as a result of the increase in economic development within the area. In this regard, it was determined that the small number of relocated families of inmates had not appeared to have a detrimental impact on the demand for primary and high school services within the area.

Having regard to the above, current data on school enrolments from the NSW Department of Education (see Table 11 below) has seen some schools’ enrolment decrease (Kempsey East Public School, Kempsey South Public School and Melville High School) from between -8.5% and -25.2% between 2012-2016 while enrolments at Kempsey West Public School saw a small increase in enrolment by +8.9%.

Table 11: Trends in Enrolments in Government Schools in Kempsey (2012-2016)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kempsey East Public School</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>-13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempsey South Public School</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>-8.5</td>
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NSW public school enrolment trends are based on a number of factors including parent choice, retention rates between grades and overall population changes in the number of school aged children. It is therefore impossible to establish the reasoning for fluctuations and changes in enrolments, particularly when considering the impact on school enrolments as a result of the existing Correctional Centre.

5.8.4 Impact on Higher Education Facilities

Inmates are provided with educational and vocational training in order to assist with rehabilitation and to provide the inmates with suitable skills to enter the workforce upon release. Training and employment is seen as a primary way to reduce reoffending.

The Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) is the registered training organisation (RTO) for the provision of education programs for inmates in NSW correctional centres.

Approval to participate in education programs is subject to the inmate meeting education program eligibility criteria and following assessment, may be approved to participate in the in programs available at the MNCCC including but not limited to:

- Traineeships Hospitality
- Traineeships Engineering
- Traineeships Warehousing 11
- Traineeships Warehousing 111
- Food Safety
- Small Motors
- Operate a forklift
- Welding
- White Card

The expenditure associated with offering these education programs to inmates at the facility will be covered under a CSNSW budget, allowing for additional TAFE staff or the increase of part-time employment opportunities, so as not to compromise existing services to the wider community.

Experience at other correctional centres in NSW suggest that educational services provided to the wider community through TAFE are not compromised as a result of the services offered to Correctional Centres, as the expenses associated with offering these education programs to staff and inmates are covered under a Justice NSW budget.

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<tr>
<td>Kempsey West Public School</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>+8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melville High School</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>-25.2</td>
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5.8.5 Intensive Learning Centres

In 2014, a new Intensive Learning Centre ("ILC") designed to break down learning barriers and reduce the risk of reoffending was opened at the MNCCC. The centre is one of four intensive learning facilities developed and administered within correctional facilities across NSW and it is understood that inmates can be transferred from other Centres within NSW to attend education and training courses offered at the ILC.

Full time learning programs are run from the ILC for inmates identified as having low literacy and numeracy skills which is designed to encourage inmates to complete TAFE NSW accredited units to Certificate levels I and II32.

It is understood that the ILC has capacity for 40 enrolments by inmates at any one time and that the centre is always operating at full capacity. Overall the ILC program is considered to provide significant benefit to inmates, providing not only additional education but long term improvements in self-esteem, all assisting in reducing the rates of reoffence.

It is understood the ILC will continue to operate, with plans to expand the program, and will be available to the additional inmates at the MNCCC.

5.9 Effect on Community, Welfare and Charitable Services

The effect on community, welfare and charitable services was considered as part of the 2007 SEIA prepared post construction and occupation of the correctional centre. The findings from the consultation undertaken in 2007 is summarised below:

- Whilst the organisations contacted had anticipated a significant impact on their services, most advised that there had in fact been little to no impact from the MNCCC33.
- the Manager for Client Services at the Department of Community Services in Kempsey indicated that the opening of the MNCCC had not impacted on the demand for services34.
- A very small proportion of callers and visitors to the Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre were known to be visitors of inmates35.
- However, the Neighbourhood Centre received quite a few requests from released inmates arriving in Kempsey after being released from other correctional centres located in Cessnock, Grafton and Glenn Innes.

Having regard to the 2007 findings, the MNCCC was considered to have minimal impact on the community, welfare and charitable services. However, it was noted that most charitable services were closed during the weekends which was considered as one explanation of the

33 Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by BBC Planners, 2007
34 Ibid
limited requests received. Further to this, a number of organisations consulted recognised the lack of assistance available to visitors to inmates arriving or staying Kempsey over a weekend.

Currently, there are a number of community services available in Kempsey, including the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, the Department of Family and Community Services and the Australian Red Cross. Findings from consultation undertaken with these agencies revealed the following:

- There are no particular concerns or anticipated increase in demand for services as a result of the expansion however many groups would like to be included and participate in ongoing discussions in relation to the project.
- The Australian Red Cross has a new strategic directive to concentrate more efforts on working with correctional centres. Kempsey regional office has established a new development officer position with the aim of working with the centre in engaging with inmates to assist with post release services.

5.10 Effect on the Indigenous Community

As reported in 2007 the Macleay Valley has one of the largest concentrations of Aboriginal people in NSW. The 2011 Census recorded there were 208 (18%) residents of the Aldavilla SS, 83 (7.9%) residents of the Yarravel SS and 3,114 (11.1%) residents in the Kempsey LGA that described themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island origin.

MNCCC is located within the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council. This organisation provides ongoing assistance to Indigenous residents in the area.

5.10.1 Impact of Existing Correctional Centre on the Indigenous Community

As noted in the 2007 SEIA, extensive consultation was undertaken by the Corrective Services NSW with the local Indigenous community during the planning and construction phases of the Correctional Centre, with on-going consultation since the Centre commenced operations.

Consultation undertaken in the preparation of the SEIA revealed the following key findings:

- whilst there had been little specific reference to the MNCCC in Kempsey Shire Council’s strategic plans, the Social Plan (2004) noted that the ‘construction of the Mid North Coast Correctional Facility has had a beneficial impact on ATSI communities in providing a facility which is close to inmates’ families’36.
- the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at the Mid-North Coast Parole Office indicated that he believed the MNCCC has been extremely positive for the local community37.

5.10.2 Impact of Proposed Facility Expansion on Indigenous Services

Whilst there have been reports of a number of positive impacts on the indigenous communities as a result of the construction and operation of the existing correctional centre, the facility

36 Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by BBC Planners, 2007
37 Ibid
expansion is expected to result in the additional demand for indigenous services due to the corresponding increase in Aboriginal inmates incarcerated at the centre. This is usually a result of the needs of both inmates and their families and was the case in Lithgow where a number of regular requests were received for accommodation assistance whilst visiting on weekends and occasional intoxication of visitors at local hotels.

It is recommended that the establishment of a Prison Servicing Interagency group includes representatives of local Aboriginal community organisations and service providers to discuss and effectively manage the impact on demands for services throughout the construction and operation of the proposed additions.

5.10.3 Indigenous Community – Department of Corrections Strategic Directives

Currently, the NSW inmate 2015 Census data indicates that a total of 151 maximum security male inmates, 27 medium security female inmates and 41 minimum security male inmates at MNCCC are of indigenous decent. In comparison to the rest of the state, the proportion of indigenous inmates residing at MNCCC is 7.7%.

To reduce the risk for re-offending for Aboriginal offenders, Corrective Services NSW is guided by strategic planning and support services. One of the key strategic documents is ‘The Strategy for supporting Aboriginal offenders to desist from re-offending’ which seeks to recognise social issues, cognitive and hearing impairments, listen to Aboriginal communities which contribute to achieving justice outcomes, increase opportunities for Aboriginal offenders to be diverted from custody where appropriate and understand the importance of family, kinship, community and culture. The Strategy seeks to deliver the following initiatives which are implemented within corrective centres state wide: -

- programs and services across custody and community which are appropriate to Aboriginal offenders considering their cultural and geographic backgrounds;
- education/vocational training and employment programs with a focus on community integration; and
- relevant cultural awareness programs for offenders considering local country, language, art and traditional customs.

5.10.4 Effect on Indigenous Employment Opportunities

The construction of the new additions will provide employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the local area and will satisfy the requirements under the NSW Government Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy. It is recommended that with the expansion of the Centre that an Aboriginal Employment Strategy Committee be established to develop programs to assist with the registering and employment of Aboriginal community members for jobs that they may be suited to with the construction of the additions.

Further employment opportunities may become available during the ongoing operation of the correctional centre in Kempsey and it is recommended that ongoing employment opportunities are considered by the Committee to ensure career paths can be developed, where appropriate.

38 Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.36.
5.11 Positive Community Effects

The establishment of the MNCCC was found, in 2007, to have had many positive community impacts. Particularly in relation to employment and expenditure within the community.

The on-going operation of the MNCCC since 2004 has resulted in the employment of approximately 196 staff which is set to grow as a result of the proposed expansion as well as assisting the local community through labour hours such as the general upkeep of the Cybucca Memorial.

The indirect community benefits including employment and contracts with local community service providers is expected to continue to grow. And as a result of the proposed facility expansion, there is also potential to expand on the existing relationships between the Centre and local community service providers. This in turn has primary benefits which include an increase in income generated by the consumption of local services.

A number of contracts with local community service providers has been established to assist in the daily operations of the Centre primarily for general maintenance services and suppliers. Overall, the expansion of the facility is likely to result in an increase in demand for local service suppliers.
6. Economic Effects

As reported in 2007, the economic impact of correctional centres is still a major positive benefit perceived by the local community. The construction of prisons, particularly in rural/regional areas, can provide a significant economic boost to a local economy whilst representing a recession proof form of economic development.

Over the eleven years of the MNCCC operation, the Centre has provided a stable level of employment in the LGA. The proposed expansion will result in an increase in the number of full time staff employed at the centre in areas such as custodial, industries, programs and administration positions. Employment opportunities will be provided both on and off site during the construction phase of the development.

6.1 General Economic Trends

The Kempsey LGA is a predominantly rural area and is known largely for its dairy farming and timber production, whilst tourism, horticulture and fishing also play an important role in the regions industry growth.

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) for Kempsey increased by 17.2% to $1,261 million in 2014/15. The annual growth in GRP in Kempsey was higher than the average increase for New South Wales during the same period (2.8%).

The most recent ABS Australian Business Register indicates that there were an estimated 2,151 businesses (i.e. registered for GST and actively trading) in Kempsey Shire as at 30 June 2014 which represents a slight decline in business trading from 2,189 in 2013 and 2,261 in 2012. Health care and social assistance is the largest industry in terms of business numbers in Kempsey (15.4%) which is discussed in section 5.2 below.

6.2 General Employment Trends

According to the 2011 census data, the total labour force for the Kempsey LGA was 10,274 whilst 912 people were unemployed (8.9%). Comparably, the Department of Employment (DE) (small area labour markets data), suggests that whilst the workforce participation rate has since increased in the Kempsey LGA with a total labour force of 12,215 for the June quarter (2016), so has the unemployment rate (9.6%)41.

In accordance with Table 12 below, Health care and social assistance (15.4%) is the largest employer in Kempsey. Secondary key industries include retail trade (13.6%) and construction (9.0%).

---

40 Ibid.
### Table 12: Employed by Industry – 2011 Census data (Kempsey)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>% of Population Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity, gas, water and waste services</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, postal and warehousing</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information media and telecommunications</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and insurance services</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental, hiring and real estate services</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific and technical services</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and support services</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration and safety</td>
<td>6.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and training</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and social assistance</td>
<td>15.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and recreation services</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total employed (no.)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS statistics data by region, Kempsey LGA

### 6.3 Employment Opportunities

#### 6.3.1 Construction

Construction of the proposed additions and alterations to the MNCCC is expected to commence early 2017 and will take up to 18 months to complete. The overall projected budget for the works is $147 million.

Employment opportunities will be provided both on and off site during the construction phase of the development. Whilst it is unknown at this stage, the number of workers expected on site during the construction phase it is understood that the construction workforce is expected to rely on a mixture of both local contractors and subcontractors from both the Kempsey LGA and the Macleay Valley region. A number of trades will be required to assist in the construction of the proposed facilities and is likely to include but not limited to:

- Electrical Trades
- Mechanical Trades
- Building Trades
- Mobile Plant Operator / Truck Driver
- Labourer / Trades Assistant
- Metal Trades
• Health and Safety

Having regard to previous studies on correctional facilities, data collected by the Department of Commerce in relation to the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre indicated that of all of the people inducted on site (including contractors and construction staff, client representatives, project management staff, suppliers and others), 66% resided in Kempsey and adjacent local government areas, with over half of those, or 37%, being resident in the Kempsey Shire. Given a local employment base it is recommended that Corrective Services NSW work closely with the MNCCC to assist with the facilitation of local employment opportunities.

6.3.2 Operation

The Centre expansion with the addition of 440 new medium security inmates will result in new employment opportunities at the Centre both for local and regional communities.

Since its opening in 2004, the existing MNCCC has been a major employer in the area with the 2007 study reporting that over 100 new employees had been attracted to the area of which 64% lived within the LGA. In this regard, with a population of 28,134, it is envisaged that a significant proportion of new staff will be sourced from within the Kempsey LGA where possible with a proportion of staff recruitment to occur across the Mid North Coast Region.

All staff will receive specialised training before commencing employment at MNCCC and the Centre operates ongoing training courses for both current staff and skills sharing with staff from other correctional centres.

Additional support services provided by Justice Health are also envisaged as a result of the prison population increase and the expected increase in demand for health services. Operational demands for health services as a result of the prison expansion will be managed by Justice Health in liaison with centre management.

6.4 Correctional Centre Expenditure

6.4.1 Purchasing Policies

As reported in 2007, Correctional centre purchasing policies are governed by State Government contracts and legislation. When inviting tenders, the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and other Treasury directives set guidelines which must be stringently adhered to. The movement of money for goods and services is closely monitored by the audit branch and the corruption unit.

The CCC purchasing policy is as follows:

- State Government contracts must be used for purchasing whenever they are available;
- Purchases must be made from CSI when they can supply cost effective and timely products; and
- Other suppliers which have entered a specific agreement with the Department of Corrective Services must be used.

When these three procedures do not apply, purchases may be made from any supplier. Where possible, orders are placed within the local community, with some local suppliers falling under
the first or third policies above. This is the case with MNCCC whereby the following services are purchased through a number of relationships that have been established with local business providers: -

- JR Richards & Sons Port Macquarie for waste removal service
- ISS Facility Services for contract cleaner of staff offices
- Kempsey Shire Council for maintenance of a pump station and sewer line
- Flick Pest Control Port Macquarie for pest control service
- Valley Industries Ltd Taree for secure document disposal service
- Pristine water systems Wauchope for rent and maintenance of water filter machines
- West Kempsey Post Office for delivery and pick up of mail for centre
- West Kempsey Newsagency for supply of newspapers and magazines for inmates
- The John Holland Group maintain an on-site presence for the routine maintenance of the facility, a large proportion of the maintenance contractors are locally contracted.

Relationships with other local business or service providers are on an ad hoc and as needed basis (e.g. catering, emergency parts). Other contracts with local businesses are supported through the Correctional Centre’s ongoing paid membership of Macleay Valley Chamber of Commerce.

It is recommended that the MNCCC works with the appointed Community Consultative Committee to ensure that local businesses are provided every opportunity to supply and service the Centre.

6.4.2 Inmate Expenditure

As was reported in 2007 it is still the case that inmates expend their money on “buy-ups”, which are divided into canteen and monthly activity buy-ups. With weekly buy-ups inmates can select from a list of products, including food and toiletries. The supplier of buy-up items, likely to be local small businesses visits the MNCCC each week to fill these orders.

Monthly activity buy-ups include items such as sports clothes and shoes and small electrical goods.

It is anticipated that with the additional inmates there may be additional expenditure within the local community, resulting from inmate buy-up activity.

6.4.3 Visitor Expenditure

Visitors of inmates in some instances will require overnight accommodation, meals, local transport. In addition to this, some visitors may also visit local attractions. Other sources of local expenditure include that from legal representatives, visiting professional staff and any out of town supplies or out of town construction contractors.

In considering the potential for visitor expenditure and its potential impact on the local economy, previous research from a post-occupancy visitor survey at the MNCCC found that
under half of all visitors to inmates were likely to stay in local accommodation, with many of those staying overnight only staying for one night. As such, it is likely there will be a small inflow of visitor expenditure.

6.5 Impact on Property and Land Values

Consultation during the development stages of the MNCCC identified a fear amongst certain sections of the Kempsey community that property and land values in the area would be negatively impacted by the construction and operation of a correctional centre. Similarly, consultation as a result of the proposed facility expansion identified the same fear. The data detailed within the 2007 SEIA for Kempsey indicated that the presence of the MNCCC did not appear to have adversely affected property values and development in Kempsey.

6.5.1 Building Approvals and Developments

The trends in residential development show the number of building approvals in the Kempsey LGA, following the MNCCC’s construction and occupation in 2006 have fluctuated which can be a result of a number of factors including interest rates and availability of mortgage funds. In 2008/09 only 38 dwellings were approved in the Kempsey LGA however by 2009/10, 87 residential dwellings were approved. Whilst the number of approvals dropped off in 2012/13, the number of approvals began to rise again in 2013/2014 and onwards. Such fluctuations are likely to be a result of broader economic situations rather than the presence of a Correctional Centre.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Kempsey LGA</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>+11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Having regard to the above, the State Government has identified the Kempsey LGA as needing a total of 1,400-1,700 additional dwellings by 2036 to accommodate growth and demand for housing. In its 2014 Rural Residential Land Release Strategy, the Kempsey Shire Council identified a possible rural residential expansion area at Kundabung (isolated corridors of regionally significant farmland) to facilitate projected population growth and housing demand.

42 The Department of Planning (2016) Draft North Coast Regional Plan., pg. 55
Such strategic documents aim to facilitate investment and growth within the Kempsey LGA, particularly in regards to housing supply.

6.5.2 Housing Values and Rental Data

Construction and expansion of correctional centres can generally result in the community perception that property and land values will be negatively affected.

The way in which surrounding properties relate to the MNCCC site can influence the potential for impacts on property prices. In this instance, the site is surrounded by primarily large lot pastoral properties with the nearest properties (4) located immediately south of the site.

It is noted that the proposed facility expansion is located west of the existing centre. The proposal will include a vegetation buffer along the southern and western portion of the site in order to maintain visual amenity afforded to those residential properties located towards the south west of the site.

Having regard to the prominent surrounding land use and the number of nearby rural residential properties, the Centres location would indicate that there are very few amenity impacts (traffic, noise, safety etc.) on surrounding properties.

Whilst the value of any given piece of property is influenced by a vast array of considerations, the data trends for the median property price for the Kempsey LGA indicates that prices have continued to increase from $298,936 in 2011 to $307,414 in 2016 (see **Table 14** below). This illustrates an increase in the median property value of 15.1% which suggests that the location of the prison (in its rural setting) has had a negligible effect on property prices over the last 5 years.

Similarly, with rental properties and demand, the median rental price has continued to grow over the past 5 years from $280 per week in 2011 to $330 in 2016 which indicates a steady growth in the area in terms of employment and demand for housing.
Table 14: Housing Values and Rental Listing Values

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>Regional NSW</td>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>Regional NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Quartile</td>
<td>$219,357</td>
<td>$250,561</td>
<td>$222,122</td>
<td>$289,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>$298,936</td>
<td>$341,117</td>
<td>$307,414</td>
<td>$415,366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Quartile</td>
<td>$368,801</td>
<td>$450,292</td>
<td>$408,031</td>
<td>$568,189</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>Regional NSW</td>
<td>Kempsey LGA</td>
<td>Regional NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>First Quartile</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$330</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Quartile</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium Rental</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As per the findings from the 2007 assessment, local real estate agents contacted during this study could not recall any prospective tenants or buyers raising concerns about the proximity of their property, either current or perspective, to the Correctional Centre. This is likely due to the fact that it is predominantly rural pastoral land surrounding the centre with the majority of the local housing density bordering the town centre which is located some distance from the site.

Overall, the Centre's location combined with current property trends suggests that it is unlikely that the additions to the Centre will impact on the rate of development or resale values within the local area.
7. Summary of Findings and Recommendations

7.1 Summary

The NSW Department of Justice is proposing to enlarge theMNCCC to cater for an increase in medium security inmates, creating an additional 440 medium security beds. Construction of the proposed additions and alterations to the MNCCC is expected to commence in 2017, taking up to 18 months to complete. The overall projected budget for the works is $147 million. Employment opportunities will be provided both on and off site during the construction phase of the development. Employment on site will fluctuate during the construction program, with up to 200 workers on-site during the peak of the construction phase.

Established in 2004, the Centre currently provides for both minimum, medium and maximum security inmates and is identified as one of New South Wales regional correctional centres. Early investigations of the impact of the establishment of the Centre on the local and regional area of Kempsey revealed:

- The opening of the Centre in 2004 had little impact on crime trends with crime rates remaining stable or declining in most areas;
- There was minimal impact on government welfare services;
- The Centre had not deterred new housing development in Kempsey nor had there been a decline in housing prices;
- Investment continued to grow in the Kempsey area suggesting Kempsey retained a positive image.

As a result of the completion of the proposed new works additional staff are expected to be employed at the Centre and where possible a proportion of the new staff will be sourced from the Kempsey LGA, providing an important pool for base grade custodial positions where they cannot be filled from within Corrective Services NSW.

The findings of the 2007 assessment of the social and economic impacts of the establishment of the MNCCC as well as recent trend analysis and investigations reveals that the establishment and operation of the MNCCC has not had a direct impact on crime rates nor has there been a significant impact on the provision of social and welfare services.

In addition, whilst the local area is considered to be more disadvantaged than the NSW average the area continues to change with local populations anticipated to continue to grow by 5.6% (between 2011-2031). The annual growth in Gross Regional Product in Kempsey was higher than the average increase for NSW and building approvals and property prices have continued to rise since the opening of the MNCCC.

It is likely that the majority of people remaining in the area upon release would be inmates who were living in the region prior to incarceration and are unlikely to place additional strain on local service providers in the area.
Key concerns and issues raised by stakeholders during the current assessment related to:

- The number of offenders remaining in the community upon release, placing additional demands on existing local service providers as well as contributing to local crime rates.
- The ability to source jobs for local residents within the Kempsey region, contributing to long term economic growth of the region.
- The additional demands placed on the Kempsey District Hospital.
- General community concerns regarding the impact of the proposal on the local Kempsey community.

Current investigations indicate that the expansion of the MNCCC is unlikely to contribute to increased local crime rates, and is unlikely to impact on the provision of services to those in need.

Overall, it is expected that, following the completion of the additions:

- the new medium security facility will be appropriately secured for prisoners of this security classification to ensure the safety and security of surroundings suburbs is maintained;
- the likelihood of families of inmates moving to the area of Kempsey is expected to remain low;
- it is anticipated that few inmates or visitors, who were not originally from the local area would remain in the area upon release and that the majority of inmates would return to their previous address or suburb, and;
- there will be a small impact on increased demand for services such as educational, health and social services, however these can be managed through Centre management maintaining open lines of communication with the relevant agencies.

The social benefits of the proposed facility include:

- additional employment for local residents through both construction and operation of the proposed facility;
- expansion of a stable industry within a rural local government area;

The overall economic impact of the proposal will result in positive local benefits to the communities of Kempsey, including employment opportunities for electrical and building trades as well as new correctional centre staff to facilitate the new medium security facility. Aside from these direct benefits and the associated multiplier of flow-on effects in support industries, the continued presence of a major stable government employer will carry on supporting investor confidence.

7.2 Recommendations

The following actions are recommended in relation to:

- Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders;
Minimising the potential negative social impacts, particularly in relation to housing and community facility and welfare needs related to the Centre as well as;

Enhancement of the positive economic and social impacts of the Centre.

7.2.1 Minimise potential negative impacts

1) Impacts on safety and security.
   - Engagement via the Community Consultative Committee to update an Emergency Management Plan and a communications strategy for the additions to the correctional centre with the local community.
   - Centre management to develop an updated program of communication with neighbouring residents and local community groups, including points of contact during any crisis situation at the Centre.
   - Centre management will continue working through the correctional centre to report on security measures and action taken in relation to escape management.

2) Concern with the potential for increased crime and anti-social behaviour in the locality, connected to the Centre.
   - Centre management continue to work with NSW Police, Council and other community groups to ensure management of crime levels;
   - Continued liaison with the Local Area Command to ensure staffing levels remain adequate and to continue to share information where relevant.

3) Impact on social and welfare services.
   - Continue to engage via the Community Consultative Committee and the Prison Servicing Interagency Group (“Breaking the Cycle”) to meet on a bi-monthly basis to continue strong partnerships with government and not for profit community service providers to assist in minimising the impact of the correctional centre to facilitate the integration of service delivery.
   - To assist with streamlining approaches with social service providers to clearly articulate their policies on service provision, and procedures with local service providers to maximise work opportunities.
   - The Centre to increase awareness of support and assistance which is available through Justice NSW to eligible visitors of inmates.
   - Establish a Health Reference Group to enable open and ongoing dialogue between NSW Justice Health and the Mid North Coast Area Health Service to ensure any issues that arise following the expansion of the Centre are addressed with both short and long term solutions.

4) Addressing the needs of the Indigenous community.
   - Engage with the local Aboriginal land council to participate in the Community Consultative Committee as well as establishing an Aboriginal Employment Strategy Committee to address community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs.
7.2.2 Maximise Positive Economic and Social Impacts

1) The Centre work closely with local businesses and service providers, including schools, to ensure all possible opportunities for partnership and development are identified and addressed.
   - Hold discussions about methods of ensuring maximum opportunities for local firms to win tenders under the Justice NSW centralised tendering process.
   - Ensure that tenders are placed in local newspapers.
   - Regularly publish a list of upcoming future tenders at Council and in the local areas.
   - Community Consultative Committee be a mechanism to establish communication with local schools and other community facilities during early operation of the additions to identify initiatives which can provide benefit.

2) Liaise closely with economic development groups to develop new ways to value add economically from the Centre, e.g. attracting new industries, briefing sessions to assist the local community in the development of individual or consortium based approaches to bid for tenders.
   - Engage with the local Aboriginal land council to participate in the Community Consultative Committee as well as establishing an Aboriginal Employment Strategy Committee to address community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs.

7.2.3 Additional Post-Occupancy Assessment

It is also recommended that a second post-occupancy assessment be undertaken to identify the impact of the additions on the local and broader community. It is recommended the assessment take into consideration:
   - Reports through the Community Consultative Committee and established Prison Servicing Interagency Group on security measures and actions in relation to escape management.
   - Data on families of inmates moving to the area and inmates remaining in Kempsey upon release.
   - Continued assessment of crime rates and crime prevention strategies in conjunction with the Community Consultative Committee and Prison Servicing Interagency Group.
   - Improvements in coordination of social and welfare services in relation to case management and management of inmates nearing release.
   - Impact on the availability of housing across all short and long term accommodation.
   - Community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs.
   - Work release program reporting identifying the benefits to the local community and economy.
Figures
FIGURE 1
Location of Site in Context of Kempsey LGA

Source: NearMap
FIGURE 2
Location of Site in Context of Surrounding Suburbs

Source: NearMap

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre (Kempsey)

Prepared For - NSW Department of Corrective Services
FIGURE 3
Nearby Facilities

Source: NearMap 2016

LEGENDS
- Bus Stop
- Train Station
- Airport
- Recreational Park
- Educational Institution
- Shopping Centre
- Post Office
- Public/Government Building
- Medical Centre/Hospital
- Place of Worship

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre (Kempsey)

Prepared For - NSW Department of Corrective Services
APPENDIX 1

Demographic Summary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**Footnotes:**
- The data represents the number of people in each category.