



# NSW Department of Justice Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Expansion Social Impact Assessment

August 2018

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

Justice Infrastructure and Assets, on behalf of Corrective Services NSW, propose to undertake a 440-bed expansion at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC) at Silverwater. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF), including Heritage Council approval, is required to facilitate planning approval for this project.

GHD has been engaged by Department of Justice (DoJ) to undertake a social impact assessment of the proposed development to assist with planning approval.

## 1.2 Site location and proposed expansion summary

### 1.2.1 Site location

The site is located within the City of Parramatta Council local government area (LGA) and consists of Lot 22 in DP 876995, located on the northwest corner of Holker Street and Jamieson Street.

Primary access to MRRC is via the signalised intersection of Holker Street / Silverwater Correctional Complex access road. A temporary secondary access for construction vehicles will be provided from Jamieson Street, via the existing Holker Street / Jamieson Street priority controlled intersection.

The site location is shown in Figure 1-1.



Figure 1-1 Site location

Source: Six maps – Modified by GHD

## 1.2.2 Proposed development overview

The proposal would involve providing new buildings and refurbishing some existing buildings and facilities within the MRRC to cater for an additional 440 inmates. Figure 1-2 shows the areas where works are proposed (highlighted green).

### **New building works**

New buildings would be provided to expand the capacity of the MRRC and accommodate the additional inmates. These new buildings would be constructed in the south-eastern corner of the proposal site, in the location of the existing outdoor sports oval.

### **New accommodation units**

The new accommodation units would consist of four two-storey units, each housing 110 inmates and split across two wings. About two thirds of the cells in each unit would be single cells, and one third would be double cells. Accessible cells would be provided on the ground floor of each cell block wing. Each cell block would be split into two 55 bed accommodation units

The units would be a modular cell pod design used for other Prison Bed Expansion Program projects. The majority of the structures would be constructed off-site, and would be transported to the site for final works and fit out. This would reduce the duration of construction and the works required on site.

The accommodation units would also include an inmate yard (two per accommodation unit) and inmate amenities.

### **New program and interview facilities**

New program and interview facilities would be centrally located within the new accommodation units. The placement of these facilities would enable them to function as a central hub to the new accommodation units.

### **New medical clinic**

A satellite health clinic would be constructed centrally located within the new accommodation units.

### **New indoor sports building**

A new multi-purpose indoor sports building would be constructed within the new accommodation area. The facility would include a basketball court and facilities for group activities, such as TV, major events, movies, etc.

### **Existing building expansion / upgrades**

The works that would be undertaken to existing buildings within the MRRC to facilitate the proposed expansion and meet the needs of the additional inmates are described below.

### **Visits building**

The visits building would be redeveloped and expanded to provide capacity for additional visitors and inmates. This would include additional interview rooms and professional visits rooms.

### **New secure entry link to the Mental Health Screening Unit**

A new secure entry link would be provided to the existing Mental Health Screening Unit, to replace the existing entry point near the visits building. This would enable segregation of inmate movements from the visits area, providing greater security.

### **Modifications to the B32 building**

The B32 building was used as a waiting area for inmate legal visits. Redevelopment of the B32 building would also allow it to function as the central radio pickup and drop-off point for staff by adding capacity to store and charge handheld radio and personal duress alarms.

### **Conversion of existing special management cells**

The existing special management cells in Darcy 3 (cells 1 to 16) would be converted into segregation cells. This would involve upgrading the cells to the required segregation standards, with an individual yard provided at the rear of each cell. These works would provide the MRRC with a total of 31 segregation cells upon completion.

### **Expansion of the reception inmate storage area**

The reception inmate storage would be expanded to provide additional capacity. This is likely to involve extending the building to the north and installing an improved storage system for optimal storage capacity and efficiency.

### **Expansion of the gatehouse for a new master control room**

The gatehouse would be expanded to provide additional space for a new master control room. This is likely to involve extending the building to the south and installing an improved electronic security system to service the existing and new buildings. This expansion will be the main master control room reducing the operations in the existing control room tower to movement control.

### **Redevelopment and expansion of the laundry and kitchen**

The laundry and kitchen facilities would be redeveloped and expanded to cater for the additional inmates.

The laundry, which services the Silverwater Correctional Centre as a whole prior to incurring fire damage, would be reconstructed and expanded to service the expanded facility.

The existing workshop area located adjacent the laundry would be converted to a rethermalisation (retherm) kitchen, which would service the MRRC facility as a whole.

### **Redevelopment and upgrade of the gym**

The existing gym would be redeveloped and upgraded to provide additional capacity. This would include the provision of two segregated gym areas for managing multiple inmate groups simultaneously, and provision of a new outdoor recreation area with secure fencing.

### **Ancillary works**

Ancillary works include expansion of car parking facilities and services upgrade.

### **Expansion of car parking facilities**

As a result of the increase in inmate accommodation, additional operational staff and visitors are expected, resulting in a need to add additional car parking capacity on site. The preferred car parking solution includes reconfiguring existing at-grade car parking areas and expanding the existing multi-storey car park. The height of the upgraded multi-storey car park will be approximately 14 metres. The new multi-storey addition aims to add a total of 102 spaces.

### **Services upgrades**

The proposal would incorporate upgrades to services such as electrical infrastructure, sanitary drainage, potable cold and hot water, natural gas, fire hydrants and hose reels, automatic fire detection and an addition of a stormwater sump. Further details of services upgrades are included in the REF.

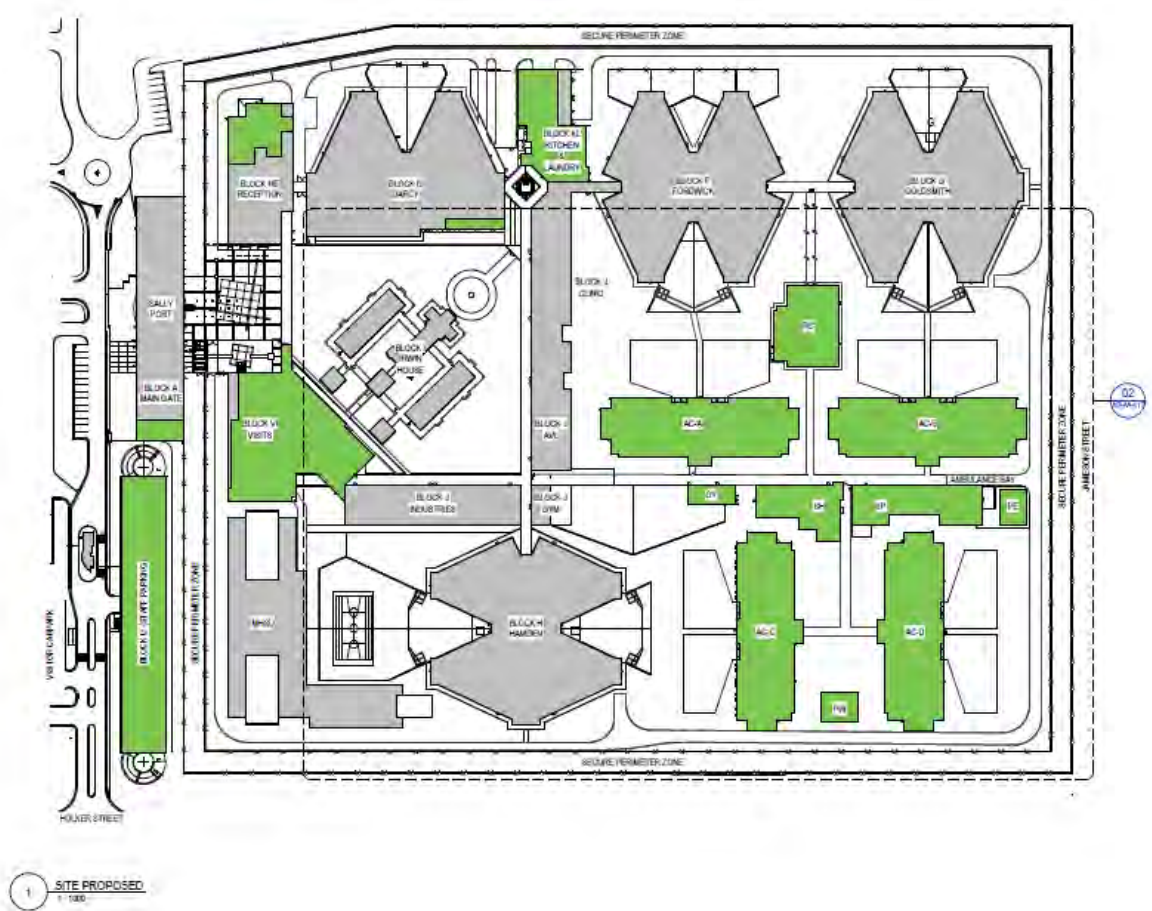


Figure 1-2 Proposed works areas

Source: Guymer Bailey Architects – modified by GHD

### 1.3 Report structure

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 Methodology;
- Section 3 Existing conditions;
- Section 4 Impact assessment; and
- Section 5 Mitigation Measures
- Section 6 References.

## 2. Methodology

This assessment of the socio-economic impacts and benefits of the expansion of Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC) has been undertaken based on the following methodology:

- Establishing the social policy context, through a review of relevant City of Parramatta strategies and plans
- Developing a profile of the existing facility and surrounding community by analysing:
  - Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census Data 2016
  - Prison census data
  - NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Conducting a site visit of the public area surrounding the facility on 10 May 2018
- Engaging with City of Parramatta and other key stakeholders on 10 May 2018

Based on the outcomes of the above tasks, we have identified the potential positive and negative socio-economic impacts during the construction and operation of the proposal. The socio-economic impacts have been assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

Table 1 Consequence criteria for socio-economic impact assessment

Criteria	Definition
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Positive</b> - Impacts that result in net benefits for the community.</li> <li>• <b>Negative</b> - Impacts that result in detriments for the community or specific stakeholder groups.</li> <li>• <b>Neutral</b> - A change that does not result in a positive or negative impact but allows continuation of the usual function.</li> </ul>
Type of impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Direct</b> - Impacts resulting directly from social changes caused by the proposal.</li> <li>• <b>Indirect</b> - A secondary impacts that occur as a consequence of a direct impact rather than the actual proposal.</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Temporary</b> – up to six months</li> <li>• <b>Short term</b> – six months to one year</li> <li>• <b>Medium term</b> – one year to five years</li> <li>• <b>Long term</b> – five years or more</li> </ul>

Criteria	Definition
Level of impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Negligible</b> – Marginal change from the baseline conditions so no discernible effect is expected and those affected could not notice the change</li> <li>• <b>Minor</b> – A small but measurable change from the baseline conditions. Changes are expected to be temporary and/or only affect a small number of people and those affected could be expected to easily adapt or cope with the change.</li> <li>• <b>Medium</b> – Noticeable and relatively substantial change from the baseline conditions. Changes may be longer term or temporary and affect a large number of people and affected would need a substantial capacity to adapt or cope with the change.</li> <li>• <b>Major</b> – A change fundamentally altering the baseline conditions in the community and affecting a large number of people, and/or a moderate number of people over the long-term and those affected would have limited or no capacity to adapt to change.</li> </ul>

This assessment criteria has been prepared by GHD according to leading practice for social impact assessment, including the International Association of Impact Assessment (2015) and Planning Institute of Australia (2010).



## 3. Existing environment

An assessment of the existing environment has been conducted to understand the existing social environment of the proposal. This includes the MRRC site and surrounding suburbs.

### 3.1 Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre

This section provides an overview of the key users of the MRRC which include the inmates, staff and visitors, as well as the employment and community programs offered at the centre. This section has been prepared based on data provided by DoJ and publicly available information.

#### 3.1.1 Profile of existing and future inmates

As noted in Section 3.1.1, the Silverwater Correctional Complex was founded in 1970, and is located 21 kilometres East of Sydney's CBD. The Silverwater Correction Complex houses the following three facilities:

- Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre: maximum security institution for women
- Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC): maximum security correctional facility for men
- Dawn de Loas Correctional Centre: minimum security correctional centre for men

The MRRC was opened in 1997 with an operational capacity of 887 beds. Over the years, the centre's capacity has increased and it is currently operating at its maximum capacity of 1,163 beds. MRRC houses inmates who come directly from court on remand, who are transferred from other correctional facilities throughout NSW whilst attending court in Sydney, or who are housed at MRRC whilst they wait for a vacancy at their centre classification. The population of the prison is therefore transient and can change frequently, with most inmates leaving the centre a few months after arrival. However some inmates can be resident at the centre for up to 12 months or more.

The MRRC services both metropolitan and regional NSW. Based on the nature of the facility, the profile of inmates is likely to shift regularly, and specific demographic information for inmates of MRRC is limited and may not be representative of the current situation. However, data collected from corrective centres across NSW indicates that 198 inmates identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Corrective Services NSW, 2016). This is equivalent to almost 20% of the total population of MRRC (assuming it is at full capacity).

#### 3.1.2 Profile of facility staff and current economic opportunities

As of March 2018, there are 485 staff employed at the MRRC. This includes:

- 335 custodial officers
- 55 justice health staff
- 55 program staff
- 40 administration staff.

#### 3.1.3 Visitors to the MRRC and Silverwater Correctional Complex

Visitors can attend MRRC seven days a week, subject to an appointment booking ahead of time. Visitors can attend a morning (8.45am - 11am) or afternoon (12.45pm – 2.45pm) session.

All sessions run for one hour, with up to 65 visitors per session. Each inmate can host a maximum of four visitors.

The facility is accessible by private car and public transport services. Visitors are informed through the correctional complex website that parking at the site is limited, and to allow for time to find parking before appointments (Corrective Services NSW, 2018). The closest bus stop is located on Holker Street, and the closest train station is Auburn Station (four kilometres away).

#### 3.1.4 Employment and community programs

In addition to the economic opportunities that MRRC provides as a place of employment, it also contributes to the economic environment of the local and regional community through income generation activities. These also provide opportunities for paid employment for inmates, and include:

- Corrective Services Industries (CSI) Textiles - Two large textile workshops are run at the facility, which produce inmate clothing as well as garments for hospitals and nursing homes
- CSI Laundry Service - The laundry service at MRRC services the Silverwater Complex and court cells
- CSI Technology - production, repair and packaging of airline headsets
- Ground Maintenance - Inmates maintain gardens and manage the landscape and grounds within MRRC.
- Domestic jobs - Inmates can work as cleaners, store persons and painters within the Silverwater Correctional Complex grounds.

Employment for inmates who are on remand is optional, whilst sentenced inmates are expected to work.

### 3.2 The surrounding community

This section describes the social profile of the local community surrounding the MRRC and Silverwater complex, including the residents, workers and visitors of the area, local social infrastructure, and the social policy context to identify local values and issues.

#### 3.2.1 Local context

Silverwater Correctional Complex is located in the suburb of Silverwater, within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area. The facility also neighbours the suburb of Newington. Silverwater originally developed largely as a small and medium business area, with many establishing their office spaces and production houses there due to the large warehouse spaces and infrastructure. Although previously a heavy industrial area, in more recent years it has been redeveloped into a light industrial and commercial area. There are small pockets of residential dwellings located throughout Silverwater and Newington, the closest to MRRC approximately 100 metres away. There is a well-established network of cafés and restaurants in Silverwater that primarily service the employees of the local businesses and residential areas, and the Silverwater Correctional Complex.

The Complex itself houses many of the area's heritage buildings and sites, including Newington House. The neighbouring suburb of Newington is primarily a residential area, best known for housing the athlete's village during the Sydney Olympics in 2000. This infrastructure remains as private housing, as well as being used by some businesses.

## Community profile

This section summarises key characteristics of Silverwater and the neighbouring suburb of Newington, compared to the City of Parramatta.

Table 2 Demographic information for Silverwater and surrounding suburbs

Demographic:	Silverwater	Newington	Parramatta LGA
Population	4166	5802	226,149
Median Age	33	35	34
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	8.8%	0.2%	0.7%
Level of highest educational attainment	Not stated (54%)	Bachelor Degree level or above (46.2%)	Bachelor Degree level or above (37.2%)
Unemployed	8.0%	4.3%	7.0%
Employed	92.4%	95.5%	93.0%
Median weekly household income	\$1,536	\$2,306	\$1,759
Family household	71.4%	84.0%	75.3%
Lone person household	19.7%	13.2%	20.1%
Group household	8.9%	2.7%	4.7%
Born overseas	47.3%	54.8%	55.3%
Top language spoken (other than English)	Korean (10.7%)	Korean (15.1%)	Mandarin (10.5%)
SEIFA	974.3	1,110.9	1,032.8

Source: ABS 2016 Census

Key demographic trends to note include:

- Silverwater has a much higher population of people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (8.8%) compared to Newington (0.2%) and the Parramatta LGA (0.7%). It is expected this is due to the presence of the Silverwater complex, particularly considering that there is an overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in MRRC.
- Newington has a lower unemployment rate and higher weekly household incomes compared to both Silverwater and the LGA.
- Newington is characterised by family households, while Silverwater has a significantly higher proportion of group households. This could also be a result of the shared housing characteristic of correctional facilities.
- Silverwater has a much lower index of socio-economic disadvantage compared to Newington and the City of Parramatta.
- Both Silverwater and Newington have a strong Korean speaking population, and there are a majority of people born overseas in both Newington and Parramatta.
- The level of highest educational attainment is listed as “not stated” for the majority of Silverwater residents, which may be another statistic influenced by the location of the Correctional Complex.

Overall, these demographic statistics show that Newington is a suburb largely occupied by families, who on average are more likely to be earning a higher wage than households in Silverwater and Parramatta. As the inmates of Silverwater Correctional Complex are included in

the Census, the profile for the suburb reflects some key characteristics of inmates. This includes the high percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, low socio-economic index, and high representation of group households.

### Crime profile

Although there is a reported high level of perceived crime in the Parramatta LGA (City of Parramatta, 2017), crime rates are relatively low compared to broader NSW. The table below shows the most common offences occurring in Parramatta LGA and how they are ranked in NSW (Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2017).

Table 3 Rates of common offences in Parramatta LGA

Common offence	2017 - Incidences	2017 - Ranking in NSW
Steal from person	220	5
Fraud	1,937	7
Robbery without a weapon	69	14
Steal from retail store	872	21
Steal from motor vehicle	1,383	32
Break and enter dwelling	896	48
Steal from dwelling	586	68
Non-domestic violence related assault	794	71
Motor vehicle theft	317	74
Domestic violence related assault	725	83
Malicious damage to property	1,393	84
Sexual assault	121	86
Break and enter non-dwelling	232	89
Murder	1	-
Indecent assault	186	-
Robbery with a firearm	13	-
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	22	-

Source: *BOCSAR, 2017*

The most common crime offences in Parramatta LGA are fraud, malicious damage to property and stealing from a motor vehicle. However, in relation to the state of NSW, stealing from people and fraud are relatively high. It is also important to note that stealing from motor vehicles and retail stores has increased by 22.6% and 26% respectively in the last 24 months across the LGA.

This crime profile is key to understanding local context, however is not indicative to changes to Silverwater inmates. Seeing as MRRC is largely a transitional remand and reception centre, the

crime rates of the surrounding area cannot be used to understand the connections between crime in the area, and characteristics of inmates of the facility.

Although the crime rates may not be reflective of the Silverwater Correctional Centre, the presence of the facility may influence how crime is understood by the local community. Members of Parramatta City Council reported during the SIA consultation in May 2018 that they were not aware of negative perceptions of the facility, or that it influenced perceived levels of crime in the area. Council indicated that their community engagement research outcomes shows that the perceived rates of crime were localised to the Parramatta CBD and more likely to be at night time, with no clear findings associated with the Silverwater Correction Complex.

### 3.3 Social Infrastructure

Located on the Parramatta River and next to Sydney Olympic Park, there are several regional and district level social and recreational facilities located close to MRRC and used by many community members. These are discussed below.

Table 4 Parks and recreation

Name	Description
Blaxland Riverside Park	Located on the Parramatta River waterfront, and directly behind the Silverwater Complex, Blaxland Riverside Park was built as part of the Sydney Olympic Park infrastructure in 2007. The park spans three hectares, and is targeted at children and family recreation. Home to the biggest playground in Sydney, the park boasts a network of shared pathways, dog walking, picnic spots and a water play area.
Parramatta River	The Parramatta River is a key environmental feature of the Parramatta area, with parts of the Silverwater suburb located on the Parramatta waterfront. The river acts a key ferry network, as well as a primary recreation facility for water sports such as rowing, sailing and sea scouts.
George Kendall Park	Located on the north of Parramatta River, facing Blaxland Park, George Kendall riverside Park provides is primarily used for children and family recreation, and also provides the community with a space for club sports.
Parramatta River Walk	The Parramatta River Walk is a connection of paths and walking routes around the Parramatta River area. One such walking route travels directly past the Silverwater Correctional Complex. This walking track is commonly used by families and individuals for leisure and recreation.
Parramatta Valley Cycleway	The Parramatta Valley Cycleway is a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians (who walk along the path in part during the Parramatta River Walk). The cycle way is 15 kilometres long, and connects Ryde and Parramatta Park. This route for the large part follows Parramatta River. Approximately 300 cyclists use the path (running directly past Silverwater Correctional Complex) each weekday, with these numbers increasing on weekends.

Table 5 Tourism and heritage

Name	Description
Newington Armory	The Newington Armory is also part of the Sydney Olympic Park grounds, and was listed on the Register of the National Estate. The building is primarily used for tourism purposes, due to its previous significance to the Royal Australian Navy throughout the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. In addition to this historical site is Newington House, which neighbours the Armory, and is currently on land that is owned by Department of Justice.
Sydney Olympic Park	Sydney Olympic Park neighbours the Silverwater and Newington Area. The infrastructure that makes up Sydney Olympic park is essential for major events, concerts and sports. Sydney Olympic Park also has a large capacity for parking, and is advertised on the Corrective Services website as a primary option for visitor parking. Casual parking at Sydney Olympic Park costs \$5/hour, with a daily rate of \$25.
BirdLife Australia Discover Centre	The BirdLife Discovery Centre provides opportunities for people to learn about and engage with birds in their natural habitat. It offers guided bird walks around the area, educational programs and tours for all ages. The centre is only open to the public on weekends.

Table 6 Business and retail

Name	Description
Newington Business Park	Newington Business Park is a new office space located near to the Silverwater Correctional Complex. The space will be open in May 2018, and is intended for both industrial and commercial businesses. Over 2000 m <sup>2</sup> of office space is available, making it a new business hub for the Newington and Silverwater area.
Newington Marketplace Shopping Centre	The Newington Marketplace is a large retail and restaurant space located five minutes' walk from the Silverwater Correctional Complex. It includes a Woolworths, fast food restaurants, a newsagent, pharmacy and a petrol station. This centre also provides the local community with essential retail and community services, including a medical centre and a bank, and also has a car park that provides free parking for two hours.

Table 7 Public Transport

Name	Description
Bus	<p>There is a bus stop located on Holker Street that is directly outside and opposite the MRRC. This is used for routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 525 (Parramatta to Burwood, via Sydney Olympic Park)</li> <li>• 540 (Silverwater Remand centre to Auburn)</li> <li>• 544 (Macquarie Centre to Auburn, via Eastwood)</li> </ul>
Rail	Auburn station is located 4 km away from Silverwater Correctional Complex.
Ferry	The Sydney Olympic Park Wharf is located 3 km from the Silverwater Correctional Complex

Table 8 Community facilities

Name	Description
SHINE for Kids	SHINE for Kids is a Child Care and Family Centre, that provides drop-in services for families visiting inmates at Silverwater Correctional Complex. This community space provides the visitors with a place to go before and after visitation, and also allows families to connect with each other. This Centre is only open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays
Newington Community Centre	Newington Community Centre neighbours the Newington Marketplace Shopping Centre. The centre hosts community events, as well as a pop up library, playgroup and group meetings. The centre is open for drop-ins on Thursdays and Saturdays and can be booked for events throughout the week.

### 3.4 Site visit

During a visit to the site and surrounding suburbs on 10 May 2018, the following key features of the environment were observed:

- The SCC is not highly visible from the Newington Marketplace
- The SCC is not visible from the Blaxland Park or play equipment itself as they have been built into the declining bank. The Complex is visible from the carpark and Jamieson Street, which is the entry to the park for vehicles.
- The visitor car park facilities are small and at the time of the site visit (approx. 10.30am) the car park was at capacity
- People were observed walking over Avenue of Africa from the SCC towards Newington Marketplace shops and services

- Holker Street, the road immediately outside SCC is a busy road with no street-facing amenities
- The SCC website suggests visitors should use the car parking facilities located at Sydney Olympic Park. This facility is a 1.5 kilometre walk from SCC, along Holker Street.

### 3.5 Local Government strategies

Relevant City of Parramatta plans and strategies have been reviewed to understand community values and issues. Where possible, plans and strategies that specifically relate to or involve the MRRC and surrounding facilities have been identified.

#### 3.5.1 Parramatta 2038 – Community Strategic Plan (2013)

City of Parramatta prepared a Community Strategic Plan in 2013 that would take them until 2038. 2038 will mark the 100 year anniversary that Parramatta was declared a City, and is of clear significance to the Council and people of the area. This community strategy details the ways that Parramatta Council plans to accommodate for the rapid development of the Western Sydney region. In combination with extensive infrastructure development, there will also be an expected 50,000 new jobs in the Parramatta region by 2038. This rapid growth is likely to continuously change the community and area, with housing density increasing over the region.

Although there is no specific mention of the Silverwater Correctional Complex, the emphasis that this community strategy places on an increase in connectivity, economic growth and housing density may impact the Silverwater facilities in the future. Specifically, the strategy outlines that housing density along the Parramatta River is likely to rapidly increase. In addition, the strategy discusses key neighbourhood programs that will be developed, to help foster community safety and connections.

#### 3.5.2 Culture and Our City – A Cultural Plan for Parramatta’s CBD 2017-2022 (2017)

The City of Parramatta drafted a cultural strategy in 2017, which details the programmes and commitments to the cultural identity of the area. Key to this plan is to actively preserve and celebrate the Aboriginal history and ongoing identity of the area, to celebrate the diversity of the City, to foster ideas and innovation, and to incubate industry, creativity and knowledge.

#### 3.5.3 Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework (July 2017)

The Social Sustainability Framework details the City’s commitment to social sustainability as the City rapidly develops and grows. The framework identifies a number of key challenges for social sustainability in the Parramatta area, including diminished social cohesion, unemployment and transport access to jobs, poor outcomes for young people, safety concerns, and lack of accessibility and inclusivity. The framework also notes that there is a high level of perceived crime in the area. Thus, a focus of the social sustainability framework is based in crime prevention, place making, and reflecting these focuses in the urban design of the area.

The perceived level of crime in the area may relate to the visibility and presence of the correctional facility, and thus programs and strategies that aim to increase safety in the broader community may benefit local residents and manage community perceptions about the facility.

#### 3.5.4 Consultation with Council

On 10 May 2018, members of Parramatta City Council met with GHD to discuss the needs, values and identity of the local community, as well as the potential social impacts and mitigation measures of the project. The meeting highlighted the following key points:



- The public open space and recreational facilities close to the facility (i.e. Blaxland Riverside Park) are managed collaboratively between Council and Sydney Olympic Park Authority. These facilities may experience some impacts as a result of the proposal
- The Parramatta Light Rail will soon be constructed, with Stage 1 and both options of Stage 2 providing additional transport options to and from the SCC.
- In addition to the new transport infrastructure in the area, it was reported that the area of Rydalmere, Ermington and Melrose Park would experience medium-intensity, yet consistent growth over the coming years, leading to greater need for connectivity between the areas surrounding SCC.
- The rapid and often high density growth in the areas surrounding SCC will also mean that emphasis will be placed on the protection of green open space, like Blaxland Park. These areas will also see an increase in the number of people that use them.
- Due to the high visitation and regional/destination nature of Blaxland Park, it is unlikely that SCC deters people from visiting the facility.
- There is a lack of social or community infrastructure to allow for visitors to prepare for or gather after visits with relatives or friends in the facility. This may have a negative impact on the visitor experience, and could be improved by some additional areas or places for visitors that are well advertised at the facility.

## 4. Impact assessment

This section presents an assessment of the potential social impacts and opportunities that may result from the proposal. Impacts associated with the construction of the proposal, and with its operation, have been assessed separately. Mitigation measures for any negative impacts have also been identified where possible.

### 4.1 Construction impacts

The proposal site is located on existing MRRC grounds, which limits the number of impacts that may be experienced as there will be no impacts associated with the changed use of land. Construction of this proposal is expected to take approximately two years to complete. The length of the construction period will likely require the use of temporary facilities within the MRRC to facilitate the operation of the facility during construction. The hours required to complete the work demands that work is completed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A summary of the potential social impacts during construction is provided below.

#### 4.1.1 Local economy and employment

There are a number of positive economic benefits that may occur during the construction phase, including employment opportunities and income generation for local businesses.

It is expected that up to 100 jobs will be created as part of this proposal, which may be increased to 300 at peak periods. These jobs will be largely construction workers working on site. It is expected that employees would be sourced from throughout the Sydney region.

The additional construction workers are expected to lead to an increase in use of local businesses and amenities. This may mean additional income for local café's, shops restaurants and retail outlets, particularly those within Newington Marketplace, which is less than five minutes' walk from the facility. This would be a positive impact experienced over the short term for these businesses.

#### 4.1.2 Residential and local business amenity and quality of life

##### Noise and air quality

Construction may cause a short-term increase in background noise levels, with a number of residential and businesses nearby likely to experience a high level of noise during standard working hours. Construction noise may also be experienced by adjacent residents at night time, which can interrupt sleep and other daily activities (GHD, 2018). Given the length of the construction period (two years), impacted residents may be particularly irritated and concerned.

In addition, there may be disturbances or changes to the quality of the air immediately surrounding the facility during construction. These impacts are likely be a result of dust generated through excavation work. Air quality will be managed through standard construction mitigation measures, however can be considered a nuisance by adjacent residents, particularly given the length of the construction period (GHD, 2018).

##### Visual landscape

During construction, local residents and employees of businesses may experience a change to the visual landscape from construction activities. Residents living in apartments located on Holker Street are likely to be most impacted by potential changes to their views.

## Traffic congestion

The potential increase in traffic associated with construction (detailed in Section 6.3) including heavy vehicles entering and exiting the site throughout the day, may lead to delays, detours, and therefore increased travel time for people travelling through the area (GHD, 2018). This is mostly likely to impact residents, employees of local businesses, and road users, particularly in peak travel times. This may impact on people's daily lives including access to local facilities and services, businesses, and general movement throughout the area.

### 4.1.3 Recreational users of nearby areas

There are a number of significant parks and recreational areas nearby the MRRRC. The proximity of these areas mean that recreational users may experience impacts from the construction of the project. Due to the sloped and protected layout of Blaxland Park, it is unlikely that recreational users of the majority of the park, particularly the play equipment, would be able to see any construction activities, although they may be able to hear noisy works. Areas closer to the facility are more likely to be impacted by noise and visual impacts during construction. However due to the destination / regional nature of Blaxland Park, it is expected the majority of users would continue to visit during construction.

It is expected that cyclists, pedestrians and other users of the Parramatta River Walk and Parramatta River (e.g. boaters) are also unlikely to experience significant amenity or noise impacts from the project, particularly as the facility is located up the hill and not visible. Users are also likely be travelling through the area (either along the pathway or river) so are considered less likely to stop using the facilities as a result of construction impacts.

Table 9 Summary of construction impacts

Impact	Who is impacted	Nature of impact	Type of impact	Duration of Impact	Level of impact
Air quality and noise	Inmates, visitors, staff, residents, businesses, recreational users	Negative	Direct	Short term	Minor
Visual amenity	Businesses, residents (particularly those living nearby)	Negative	Direct	Short term	Minor
Traffic congestion	Road users, residents, businesses	Negative	Direct	Medium-term	Minor
Economic benefit due to construction work	Construction workers in the area	Positive	Direct	Medium	Medium
Economic benefit due to increase in people frequenting the area	Local businesses	Positive	Indirect	Medium to long term	Medium

## 4.2 Operational impacts

The social impacts and benefits expected to result from the proposal are primarily related to ongoing employment and addressing the need for additional capacity of correctional facilities, parking and use of local services, changes to the local demographic profile, amenity, and perceptions of safety.

### 4.2.1 Meeting demand for correctional facilities

The additional capacity within MRRC is expected to take some of the pressure off other regional corrective centres, and help to meet demand. This is considered a state-wide benefit.

### 4.2.2 Local economy and employment

The proposal may lead to an additional 140 full time staff members, meaning that the proposal is creating long term employment opportunities. These will likely range across all job types and will likely include both professional and lower-skilled roles. This is considered a benefit for people from across Sydney, and particularly people living in Parramatta and Western Sydney more broadly.

As a flow on benefit resulting from an increase in staff at MRRC, there may be an increase in income for local businesses and services in the surrounding area. In particular, the shops and services located at Newington Marketplace are expected to be frequented by MRRC staff due to the close proximity to the facility. Local shops and services may also benefit from increased numbers of visitors who are likely to visit the facility as a result of increased capacity of MRRC. This could be a long term minor benefit for local shops and services in the area

External businesses that provide the centre with food and other supplies are also expected to benefit due to the need for additional goods and services.

### 4.2.3 Increased demand for parking in the local area

The proposal has the potential to increase demand for car parking in the local area. Currently, there are about 550 staff parking spaces located within the Silverwater Complex, including within the staff carpark located near the entrance to the MRRC on the access road to the complex. There are approximately 135 visitor parking spaces located within the Silverwater Complex. The proposal includes expanding an existing two storey car park to four storeys, which is assumed will double the number of car spaces available for staff. It is expected that new staff travelling to the facility by private car will be accommodated by the expanded car park, however additional car parking for visitors is not currently part of the proposal.

The MRRC website currently advises visitors who drive to the facility that on-site parking is limited, and are directed to park at Sydney Olympic Park. Additional visitors parking here would be a benefit for the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, as people must pay a fee. Visitors may also choose to use the Newington Marketplace Shopping Centre car park, particularly as it is located directly opposite the Silverwater Correctional Complex. The parking is free for the first two hours at the Shopping Centre, and has approximately 180 parking spots. This could decrease the availability of car spaces for people shopping at the centre, particularly residents and workers in the local area. This could have both an indirect benefit for the shops and services here if visitors also use these businesses, or an impact on the businesses if local community members are unable to access them.

#### 4.2.4 Changes to the local profile and values

A potential indirect impact that may result from the increase in inmates at the facility, is a change to the demographic profile of the suburb of Silverwater and surrounding area. As detailed above, there are key features of the suburb profile of Silverwater that may be a result of the Silverwater Correctional Complex. The proposal states that there will be an increase of 440 inmates as a result of the upgrades and additional facilities. Therefore, by increasing the number of inmates, the socio-economic index of the suburb of Silverwater may decrease as a result of more people who are unemployed and with lower education levels. This may lead to community concern about how Silverwater, and neighbouring areas, are perceived by the community more broadly.

In addition, the increase in inmates located at the MRRC site may compound community perceptions about crime and safety in the Parramatta area. While Council indicated during the SIA consultation they are not aware of any current concerns in the local community, there is potential for local community members to perceive a link between the facility and decreased safety in the Silverwater / Newington area. This can impact on community wellbeing and cohesion (Foster et al, 2013).

#### 4.2.5 Long term changes to local amenity

Amenity impacts during operation are expected to be limited to visual impacts resulting from new buildings and infrastructure within the facility. This includes the new parking lot, which will increase from two to four storeys. There is potential for this to impact the views of residents living in apartments on Holker Street and which face north. However, it is expected that residents living in these apartments are more likely to value their views across Blaxland Park and towards Parramatta River, which are not expected to be interrupted as a result of the proposal. Therefore this is considered to be a negligible impact.

Table 10 Summary of operational impacts

Impact	Who is impacted	Nature of impact	Type of impact	Duration of Impact	Level of impact
Additional capacity to meet additional demand of prison beds across the state	Regional CSNSW	Positive	Direct	Long-term	Medium
Changes to socio-economic index of Parramatta LGA	Parramatta LGA	Neutral	Indirect	Long-term	Minor
Increased perception of high crime rate	Residents of Parramatta, City of Parramatta LGA	Negative	Indirect	Long-term	Medium
Increased opportunity for employment	Job seekers	Positive	Direct	Long term	Medium
Increased need for businesses	Business leader/ employees	Positive	Indirect	Long term	Medium
Increased need for external service providers to deliver goods into MRRC	Service and goods providers	Positive	Indirect	Long term	Minor
Visual amenity/ landscape	Some residents	Neutral	Direct	Long term	Negligible

## 5. Mitigation measures

The following mitigation measures have been developed in relation to the above identified impacts. These have been broken down into mitigation measures for both construction and operation.

### *Construction*

Impacts that are a result of air quality, noise, and traffic congestion will be mitigated with measures detailed in relevant sections of the REF. These include standard construction management measures to reduce impacts on local amenity.

A communication and stakeholder engagement strategy is also recommended to help manage community and stakeholder concerns associated with construction. This strategy should provide updates regarding construction activities and potential impacts, including noise and air quality impacts, night works, changes to traffic conditions, and timeframes for interruptions. In particular, a complaints management process is required to ensure local residents, businesses and other stakeholders can register their concerns, and be kept up to date with how they are addressed.

### *Operation*

The impacts that may arise as a result of operation are mostly positive and thus require no mitigation measures.

Potential impacts on community values and perceptions associated would be managed through an ongoing communication and stakeholder engagement strategy which focuses on developing a positive relationship with the local community. This may include educational material about the facility.

A local parking strategy should also be prepared which considers impacts on local parking availability during operation. In doing so, a Parking Impact Assessment should be conducted, which should involve consultation with local businesses of Newington Marketplace and Sydney Olympic Park Authority, to understand the potential impacts on these facilities. This may result in the need to consider additional or alternate parking facilities as part of the proposal, or provision of other measures to encourage travel to the facility by public transport.

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