



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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PRISON OVERTIME INQUIRY TO CONTINUE

The Legislative Council Committee inquiring into overtime costs at the Tasmanian Prison Service today presented an Interim Report on the issue, but will not finalise its investigation until after the State Budget process is completed.

The Inquiry Chair, Independent Member for Windermere, Ivan Dean MLC, said the Committee had been preparing to present a final report, but the sudden resignation of Mr Barry Greenberry as the Director of Prisons had raised concerns about measures to reduce the high cost of overtime in the Prison Service.

“The Committee had been told that overtime costs were being tackled with some success, but the unexpected departure of the man responsible for managing that process has raised doubts about whether that success was real and sustainable,” Mr Dean said.

“The Interim Report presented to the Legislative Council today sets out the evidence we have received so far and it is quite clear that there has been a major problem for a long period relating to overtime costs at Risdon Prison.”

“While steps are being taken to deal with the problem, the Committee believes that it would be premature to conclude its inquiry until it is satisfied that Mr Greenberry’s departure has not derailed the process,” he said.

“The Budget Estimates hearings will provide an initial opportunity to assess the situation, but it may be necessary for the Committee to take further evidence to ensure that excessive prison overtime is a thing of the past,” Mr Dean said.

“Tasmanian taxpayers cannot afford the millions of dollars it costs every year to pay for this overtime so it is important that the Committee is certain the problem is being fixed once and for all.”

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ivan Dean MLC on 0417 364 375

Media Note: The Committee’s Interim Report is available online at:
http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminB_Prison.htm