Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation Minister for the Arts and Heritage Minister for the Environment



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Mr Nic Street MP Liberal Member for Franklin Email: C/o Laura Ross, Clerk of the House <u>Laura.Ross@parlimanet.tas.gov.au</u>

Dear Mr Street

## CONSTITUENCY QUESTION - Investment in Correctional Facilities

I write in response to your question to me about the government's investment in Tasmania's correctional facilities and its benefits for the long-term safety of Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that modernisation of our correctional facilities is essential to ensuring they not only meet contemporary standards of security but also provide meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. These upgrades are designed with a dual focus: enhancing the safety and security of the facilities and creating an environment where rehabilitation programs can thrive, contributing to long-term community safety.

Planned upgrades include the construction of a new maximum-security unit at the Risdon Prison site, with facilities providing secure accommodation, addressing operational pressures and improving the ability of corrections staff to manage this cohort effectively. This unit is not solely about containment—it is being designed to prioritise rehabilitation through purpose-built spaces for activities, education, and therapeutic programs are central to this initiative.

In addition to the new unit, the upgrade of Electronic Security Systems (ESS) at Risdon will incorporate cutting-edge technology to enhance facility safety and operational efficiency. These modernised systems represent a critical element in maintaining the security and functionality of the facility. By ensuring precise monitoring, rapid incident response, and overall operational control, these systems create a safer environment for all who work or reside there.

Rehabilitation and reintegration are central to long-term community safety. Modern facilities equipped with the right infrastructure and technology provide the foundation for programs that address offenders' individual needs. With fit-for-purpose rehabilitation and reintegration structures, prisoners have the best opportunities to successfully transition to life after incarceration.

I thank you for your question and want to ensure you the government is committed to ensuring that these upgrades represent not just an investment in infrastructure but an investment in the future safety and wellbeing of our communities.

These initiatives underscore the government's long-term vision for a corrections system that not only meets the challenges of today but also strengthens the safety and cohesion of Tasmania for generations to come.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine Ogilinie

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation