



West Kimberley Regional Prison **news**

WEST KIMBERLEY
REGIONAL PRISON



An aerial view of the new West Kimberley Regional Prison.

WGRP construction update from Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial Ian Giles

As the West Kimberley Regional Prison (WGRP) moves closer to completion, we have had to **revise the schedule for commencement of prison services.**

A direct lightning strike to the site during a recent storm caused damage to a number of security system components that now have to be replaced.

An assessment is also being made of how and why the incident occurred to ensure the system is fully protected in the future.

This incident has resulted in an estimated three-month delay to the prison's completion. We now expect the builders to complete construction by late July with the commencement of prison services in October.

As unfortunate as this delay is, it is also necessary to ensure this visionary project meets the best possible standards of construction and our primary obligations to community safety and employee and prisoner welfare.

The prison is still on track to create more than 100 new jobs in the community.

I know there has been strong local interest in a number of these positions and I want to assure you that all jobs currently advertised will continue through the recruitment process.

The majority of jobs that were scheduled to be filled by May and June will now be filled by September.

The WGRP is the first prison of its kind in Australia to be specifically designed, built and operated to reflect Aboriginal culture and values.

As with any pioneering project, we have faced some challenges along the way, but no further delays are anticipated.

I am enormously proud of the goals that Department staff and the Derby community have worked together to achieve so far in realising this positive new direction in prison services.

Ian Giles, Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial

Trainees take the oath

TWELVE of the Kimberley's own participated in a West Kimberley Regional Prison 'Oath of Engagement' in February.

The event was held at the Derby Civic Centre where Deputy Commissioner Adult Custodial Ian Giles addressed the prison officer trainees who were then sworn in by Superintendent Mike MacFarlane.

Deputy Commissioner Giles acknowledged the importance of the community focus to the new recruits and the positive difference they will make to the lives of many people during the course of their careers.

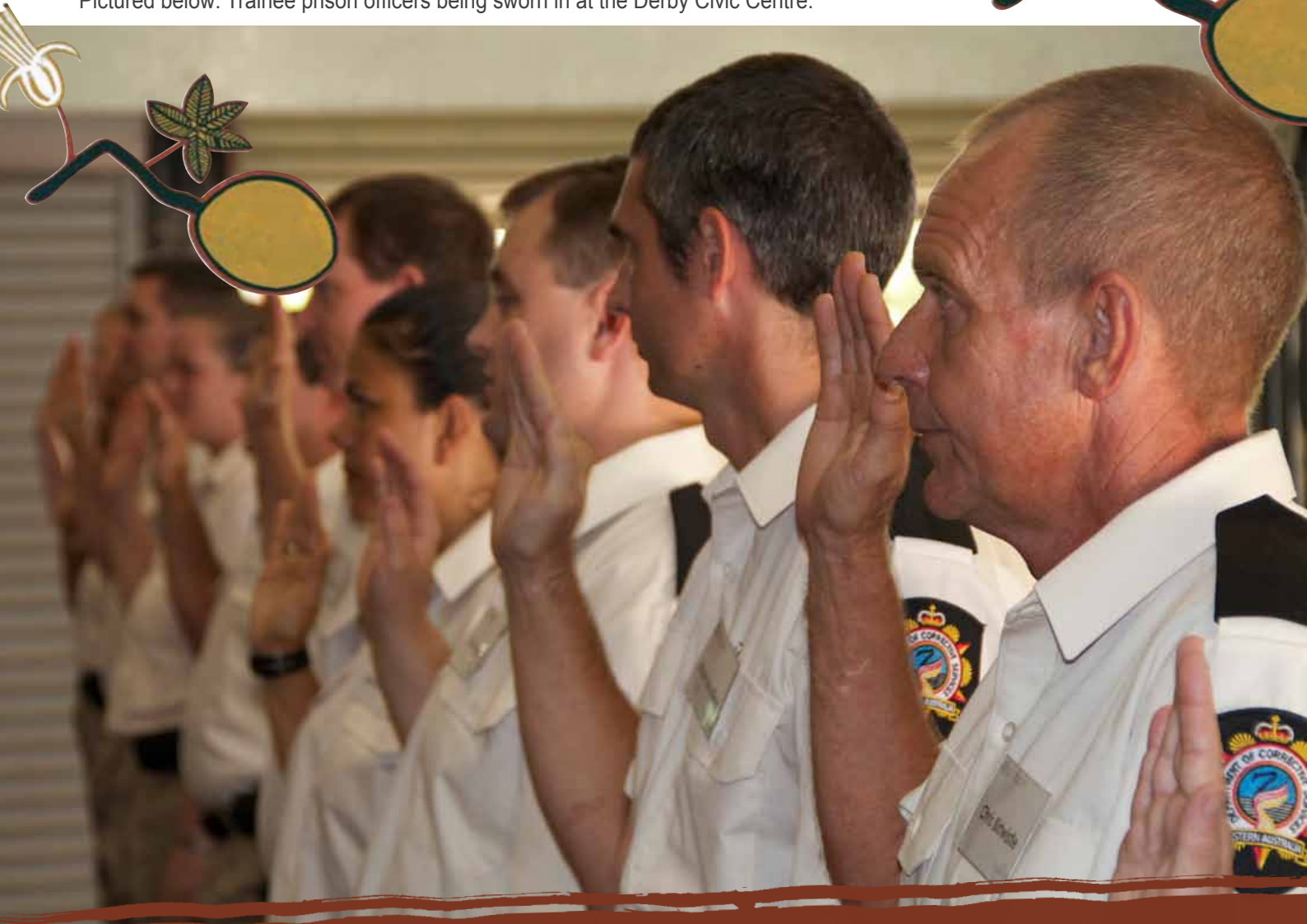
"The challenges of the prison officer profession are far outweighed by the many rewards and benefits they bring to the community each and every day and, on behalf of the community, I sincerely thank you for stepping forward to undertake this vital role," he said.

The entry-level recruits are all Kimberley residents with

the majority from Derby. Mr Macfarlane said everyone enjoyed the celebration which included a Welcome to Country performed by representatives of the traditional land owners.

"We had senior prison staff and training staff in attendance as well as local community members and representatives from the police and the shire," he said. "It was a great opportunity to involve the community in the development of WKRP."

Pictured below: Trainee prison officers being sworn in at the Derby Civic Centre.





Barry Wardlow and Karen Rogers are looking forward to becoming a part of the Derby community.

Prison welcomes new team members

A husband and wife team with a passion for the North West are the newest members of the West Kimberley Regional Prison's (WKRP) senior team.

Senior prison officers Barry Wardlow and Karen Rogers have 38 years experience in corrective services between them.

As avid travellers of remote climes, they are also no strangers to Derby.

"Over the past three years we've visited Derby many times on our travels along the Gibb River Road and made some great friends," Barry said.

"We love the country and outdoor lifestyle – the fishing, camping and mud crabbing."

Karen has been working on the development of operational procedures for WKRP in Perth for the past few months. Barry said they were both excited about moving to Derby to continue their association with the prison.

"It's the philosophy of the prison we really like," he said.

"As senior prison officers we are expected to be leaders and mentors to other staff and the prisoners.

"The prison philosophy encourages us to maintain relationships with external agencies so we get to see how prisoners get on once they are out in the community and provide additional supports where required.

"We are also looking forward to working closely with the traditional land owners, Aboriginal elders and other community members in and around Derby."

Barry and Karen will spend their next few days settling in to the town of Derby and waiting for their furniture to arrive to make their new residence feel like home.

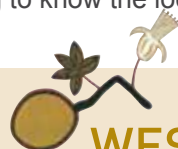
Once settled, they will be joining the team working on the operational procedures in the lead up to the opening of the prison, mentoring the local trainee prison officers and getting to know the local community.

Employment Opportunities

Recruitment is well underway for staffing the West Kimberley Regional Prison.

Many jobs have been advertised and some positions have been filled.

If you are interested in jobs at the prison and would like to know more, register your interest by emailing wkpr.jobs@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au or calling (08) 9264 6224.



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For more information about the West Kimberley Regional Prison contact:

WKRP Project Office

West Kimberley House
16-22 Loch St
DERBY WA 6728

Postal Address
PO Box 350
DERBY WA 6728

Phone: (08) 9193 1953 or (08) 9191 2066

Web: www.correctiveservices.wa.gov.au

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