



Mid North Coast prison expansion brings jobs, investment

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The multi-million dollar expansion of Mid North Coast Correctional Centre is on track to be complete by the end of the year, creating about 90 ongoing jobs in the region.

Minister for Corrections David Elliott and Member for Oxley Melinda Pavey MP toured the correctional centre in Aldavilla and commended the work of Corrective Services NSW, Justice Infrastructure and Assets, and managing contractor Watpac Construction.

“It’s just 12 months since construction began on the 440-bed expansion near Kempsey and already it has created around 450 jobs for local tradies and financial benefits for the region,” Mr Elliott said.

“Corrective Services NSW is a proud employer in Kempsey and the expansion will also create about 90 full-time jobs once complete. This will be another excellent opportunity for local residents to apply for a variety of roles including frontline correctional officers.”

The project is part of the NSW Government’s \$3.8 billion investment into increasing capacity in the state’s prisons to meet demand and involves an additional 440-beds being added to the 550-bed Mid North Coast Correctional Centre.

Ms Pavey said about 70 per cent of the tradespeople working on site were from the Kempsey area, while Watpac Construction was based in nearby Port Macquarie.

“We’re just past the midway mark and it’s excellent to see this project taking shape with nine new buildings, four accommodation blocks, perimeter access roads, and refurbishment to the existing staff amenities and visits area coming into form,” Ms Pavey said.

“It will be an impressive, state of the art facility, which supports staff in their efforts to reduce reoffending and to equip inmates with knowledge, skills and training.”

During the past 12 months at Mid North Coast:

- Nine new buildings, including accommodation wings have been installed
- About 900 metres of secure perimeter fencing have be installed
- 320 modular-cells were installed in a record 36 days
- Refurbishment of the existing staff amenities and visits area is in progress
- Audio-visual link suites for court appearances have been expanded
- A new Corrective Services Industries unit has been built for inmate employment opportunities