MEDIA RELEASE

Groundbreaking ceremony gives Mid North Coast economy a boost

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Almost 450 jobs and millions of dollars will be invested into the Kempsey area with the expansion of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre.

Minister for Corrections David Elliott today turned the first sod at the site of the prison expansion at Aldavilla, accompanied by local member and Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey and Mayor Liz Campbell.

The Mid North Coast Correctional Centre is a 550-bed facility and the expansion will allow the centre to accommodate an additional 440 male inmates.

Mr Elliott said the work was part of the NSW Government’s $3.8 billion infrastructure investment in the state’s prison facilities to meet demand.

“Today marks the start of a multi-million dollar investment into jobs and growth in the Mid North Coast region, with almost 450 jobs being created,” Mr Elliott said.

The expansion consists of four accommodation blocks, each with 110 beds, and is being constructed by Watpac Construction Port Macquarie Branch with expected completion in late 2019.

Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin said the expansion work would also include upgrades to existing facilities.

“Supporting infrastructure will also be expanded or upgraded to improve staff facilities and inmate rehabilitation opportunities and will include the visits area, administration, gatehouse, reception, health clinic and inmate industries.”

Ms Pavey welcomed the investment into the Mid North Coast region.

“This investment will create around 90 full-time jobs for the region and up to 350 trade jobs during construction,” Ms Pavey said.

“Our local economy will get a boost as these workers shop, eat and stay in Kempsey and surrounding areas.”

Media inquiries: 0419 258 290