

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Crime Prevention

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Youth Justice

Minister for Victim Support



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PRISON EXPANSION TO DELIVER NEW JOBS IN CAMPBELLFIELD

Work to provide new cells to house more than 616 prisoners will begin shortly, with the signing of a \$41 million contract to manufacture 460 prefabricated steel modular cells for five Victorian prison sites.

Around 20 local manufacturing jobs will be created under the contract with Modular Building Systems Pty Ltd, with work on plumbing, electrical, furniture and fixtures undertaken in the Melbourne suburb of Campbellfield.

The cell manufacturing is the first stage of a program to expand the capacity of five Victorian prisons, announced in the *Victorian Budget 2019/20*, to provide prisons with flexibility to meet future needs.

Once cell manufacturing is complete, Victorian businesses and workers will be involved in an extensive construction program, building cell accommodation blocks and a range of supporting infrastructure.

These projects will be a major generator of local jobs and economic activity, especially for Lara (Barwon Prison and Marnong Correctional Centre), Castlemaine (Middleton Prison), Ararat (Hopkins Correctional Centre) and Melbourne's western suburbs (Metropolitan Remand Centre).

Construction across the five sites is expected to be completed by mid-2023, as part of a project delivered by the Community Safety Building Authority within the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Barwon Prison will be the first to have the new cells installed, expanding its capacity to accommodate a total of 640 prisoners by late 2022.

Supporting infrastructure for the additional beds at Barwon will include a visitor centre, light industries building and men's shed. The existing programs and medical building will also be expanded and refurbished, and internal fencing will be built.

Across the Victorian prison system, 1,600 new beds will become available as part of the 2019-20 Victorian Budget's \$1.8 billion investment to meet future demand and deliver programs to break the cycle of reoffending and keep people out of prison.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Corrections Natalie Hutchins

"Across the state our infrastructure projects are creating thousands of local jobs and a more secure prison system that enhances community safety."

"These state-of-the-art prison cells will be manufactured offsite in Campbellfield then installed at each prison."

Quote attributable to Member for Broadmeadows and chair of the Broadmeadows Revitalisation Board, Frank McGuire

"Much of the manufacturing will take place in Campbellfield, so we will improve the availability of jobs for local people in plumbing, electrical skills and making fixtures and furniture. This will be made all the more impactful through the work of Broadmeadows Revitalisation Board."

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