

# CORRECTIONS Communicator

Updating the community on the Otago Region Corrections Facility

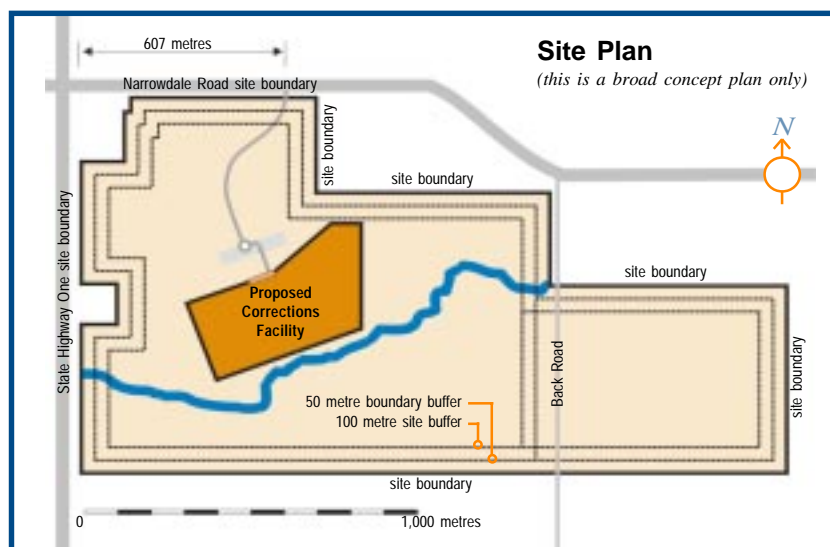
## Position for main buildings identified

We recently confirmed that we plan to position the facility's main buildings near the centre of the main block on the 187-hectare site, with road access from Narrowdale Road.

This decision reflects community feedback obtained from a survey about building platform options and

Benefits of the position chosen for the main buildings include:

- maximum buffer distance around the facility
- lower land contours help to screen the prison
- traffic discouraged from using Back Road



associated road access, and in particular the responses from people living near the proposed site. We also weighed up advice from design, technical and resource management consultants, tangata whenua and Transit New Zealand. Input from the Department's prison managers and farming experts was also received.

The chosen location combines the range of feedback and advice we received. We have also moved the access point on Narrowdale Road further east, away from nearby houses.

- milking shed retained in its present location
- operation of dairy farm not affected
- suitable position for the day-to-day operation of a prison.

The building complex would take up about 10 percent of the site.

## Welcome

Welcome and kia ora to our first newsletter for 2003. In November last year, Corrections Minister Mark Gosche announced he would seek planning approvals to develop a corrections facility on the site at Milburn. This decision was a key step in the project. It has enabled the Department to begin preparing the documents needed for the planning approval process.

In late January we identified the location of the facility's buildings on the site and associated road access. With this decision made we can now begin drawing up preliminary design plans. Over the coming months we will continue to talk with local people in order to improve the outcome for those affected by the proposed facility. In particular we will be exploring options for appropriate screening and landscaping so that the facility fits in with the natural landscape and the surrounding community. We will also be looking at the design of the buildings, fencing and lighting.

There has been some recent discussion about the name of the facility. We feel that the Otago Region Corrections Facility name has worked well so far. It describes the nature of the facility and the area it serves. However, we are happy to receive alternative suggestions, as you will see on page 3.

Please take the time to read about the latest project happenings. We value your ongoing interest and the way the community has got involved.

William Whewell  
National Property Manager

## Building platform community survey

### Who replied?

- 28 households neighbouring the site.
- 45 households from the wider community.

### What did the neighbours prefer?

- The building platform furthest away from their property.
- As little as possible extra traffic on surrounding rural roads.
- Minimum disruption to the operation of the dairy farm.

### What did the wider community prefer?

- The building platform position furthest away from State Highway 1.

### Was the result clear-cut?

- No, neighbours' opinions were almost evenly split between the two building platform options.
- The wider community also shared contrasting opinions.

## Visit to Rolleston Prison

An offer to visit to Rolleston Prison, near Christchurch has been enthusiastically received by neighbours. This is an opportunity for those living near the proposed site to learn more about a modern corrections facility. The visit is planned for a weekend in March or April 2003.

The Department is writing to all Milburn residents to find out if they are interested in taking part.

## Meetings with neighbours

We would like to thank site neighbours for taking part in meetings with members of the project team during December and February.

### Compensation

A key issue for site neighbours has been the potential effect of the facility on their property values and whether compensation is available. We have explained why compensation is not possible and not usual Department practice. As a government department we are limited by legislation (Public Finance Act and Public Works Act) and budget constraints.

The large site area (three times larger than the minimum area required for a

330-bed corrections facility) allows for a good buffer zone and is another reason why it is not possible to purchase more land.

### Building platform and road access community survey

A valuable discussion in December with Milburn neighbours led to more information being sought about the community's preference for the position of the main buildings on the proposed site and the associated road access. A survey was sent to Milburn residents and landowners as well as the wider Milton/Waiholā community.

*See orange panel (left) for results.*

## Designation application likely in June

We are also working with our resource management consultants as we prepare the Corrections Minister's application to designate the site at Milburn for the Otago Region Corrections Facility. This application is known as a Notice of Requirement and is expected to be lodged with the Clutha District Council in June this year. The prison will not go ahead unless the designation is confirmed and any necessary resource consents granted.

## Water and wastewater options

We continue to explore water and wastewater options in liaison with the Clutha District Council.

The completion of planned upgrades to the Milton wastewater treatment plant may occur outside the project timeframe. This means the Department also needs to investigate on-site wastewater treatment options.

Associated disposal options could include spray irrigation of treated wastewater on or off-site.

## Resource consents

During development of the concept design our resource management consultants will identify any resource consents that are needed for the operation of the proposed corrections facility.

# Fitting in with the rural landscape

**D**uring the first phase of the project a lot of time was spent identifying and understanding the ways a prison at Milburn might affect the neighbouring community. We know that open spaces and the feel of a rural setting are very important to people who live near the site.

Now that we have chosen the position for the building complex we can concentrate on finding ways to minimise the visual impact of the prison and at the same time develop a modern and secure facility.

By seeking specialist advice we aim to design a facility that fits in with the natural contours and wider landscape

and also preserves the cultural and heritage aspects of the site.

As we work through the preliminary design process we will be looking at:

- landscape planting options
- the possible layout of buildings
- building materials and colours we could use
- fence and lighting styles.

There will be opportunities for those most affected by the presence of the facility to provide feedback on aspects such as landscape plantings.

We will continue to keep you informed of project developments.

## Facility name

We have been talking with site neighbours and Te Runanga o Otakou about a suitable name for the facility.

We are continuing to use Otago Region Corrections Facility although we are happy to consider alternative titles. The runanga have suggested that it may be appropriate to use a dual name for the facility and they will be guiding us on this.

Please call us on freephone **0800 263 880** or write to us if you have any suggestions.



## Further geotechnical investigation carried out

*Some of you may have recently seen the drill-rig above, being used on the site at Milburn. Testing has been carried out to confirm the “buildability” of the identified building platform location.*

# Where are the other regional prisons?

The 330-bed Otago Region Corrections Facility is one of four new regional prisons planned for the country. The other facilities include two men's prisons, one in the far north at Ngawha (350 beds) and another, Spring Hill, near Meremere south of Auckland (650 beds). A women's facility is planned in Manuaku City (150 beds).

The Northland Region Corrections Facility is now in the construction phase, while local councils are currently considering designation applications for the Spring Hill and Auckland Region Women's facilities.

Regional prisons are designed to accommodate offenders close to their home support networks. They are needed to cope with increasing inmate numbers and will replace some of our oldest prisons.



## Economic benefits will flow from facility

Results of the economic impact assessment we commissioned show that the South Otago area and the wider region can expect a real economic boost during the facility's construction.

In the long term, the facility will produce a small but steady benefit that is not subject to the fluctuations experienced by farming and forestry sectors in the local economy.

### Boost from construction phase

- 170 workers, increasing to 370 at peak times.
- Increased indirect regional employment related to the supply of materials, products and services to build the facility.
- Demand for goods and services generated by increased workers in the Milton and Milburn area.

### Benefits once facility opens

A steady demand for goods and services generated by about 160 staff and up to 330 inmates.

## Existing and proposed corrections facilities

*The proposed Otago Region Corrections Facility will form part of the network of prisons throughout New Zealand. There are currently 17 publicly run corrections facilities in New Zealand and one privately operated facility (Auckland Central Remand Prison). Three of these facilities accommodate women inmates.*

*The map shows the location of the existing and proposed facilities.*

## Contact us

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, change your contact details or be removed from the database, please contact us on freephone 0800 263 880.

Letters and comments are welcome.

Freepost 86 786  
Regional Prisons Programme  
Department of Corrections  
Private Box 1206  
Wellington