

CORRECTIONS Communicator

Updating the community on the Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility

Have your say

We wrote to you in June to let you know that the Minister of Corrections had lodged a Notice of Requirement with the Manukau City Council to have a site in Hautu Drive 'designated' for the proposed Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility.

By designating the site, it can be used for the building and operation of a women's corrections facility.

The Council has recently called for public submissions to find out your views. Council advertisements in local newspapers have outlined how to make a submission. If you missed these notices and would like further information, please

contact Karyn Kurzeja at the Council (phone 262 5239) or the Department of Corrections (freephone 0800 263 880). The Minister's application can be viewed at the Council or its ward centres. Submission forms are also available from these locations.

Submissions must be sent in by 24 September 2002. The views put forward in the submissions and in the hearings process that follows will help the Council make a recommendation on the designation of the Hautu Drive site.



Sketch showing part of the planned high security area of the facility. Support facilities such as classrooms and health centre are to the left of the picture and accommodation blocks to the right.



DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS

Welcome

Some key steps have been taken recently in the planning of the Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility. This issue of *Corrections Communicator* outlines the next stage in the planning process as well as the latest developments on the site works and consultation with tangata whenua.

The Resource Management Act process is currently addressing the suitability of the Hautu Drive site for a corrections facility. This site was chosen after an extensive site selection process that took into account the views of many people and groups.

We've been asked why the corrections facility isn't planned for a rural site, where there are fewer workers and residents nearby. We looked at over 40 sites, some of which were in rural areas, but it was the Hautu Drive site that stood up as being the most suitable.

We considered the types of operations and other existing uses of the land around the Hautu Drive site alongside other factors such as its size, access and link to services.

One of the big advantages of the Hautu Drive site is its convenience to Manukau City and to many of Auckland's main roads. This will make travel easier for families who wish to visit and for services to supply the facility.

"We're confident that the right site has been chosen and that we can fit into the Hautu Drive area with minimal effects on our current or future neighbours."

We encourage you to contact us if there are any issues you wish to discuss. Our freephone number is 0800 263 880.

William Whewell
National Property Manager

Women's views sought for new facility

The new Auckland women's facility is an opportunity to design a facility that focuses on reducing re-offending and helping women inmates turn their lives around. As a Department we have a particular goal of reducing re-offending by Maori.

We've sought the views of Maori women on how they think the new facility can be most effective. Over the last few months a group of women from a range of backgrounds and experiences, led by well-known Maori women's advocate Naida Glavish, has met to prepare a report that takes into account a Maori women's world view in the design and operation of the new facility.

The group recommends that the facility design be based around an inmate's 're-birthing' journey that would allow her to take responsibility for her offending. The layout of the

facility, use of building materials and landscaping are some of the ways suggested by the group to allow this to happen.

Behind the group's report is the acknowledgement that we all benefit from safer communities and reduced costs if inmates can contribute positively to society once released.

The group's ideas are by no means for Maori inmates only. "All inmates need to look at themselves and ask why they are in prison," states Naida. "Our focus on healing the inmate and her relationships with family and the wider community applies to inmates from all cultures."

The Department's design team, which includes Maori architect Rau Hoskins, is looking to include the group's recommendations. Copies of the group's report are available from us by calling 0800 263 880.

Site works on track

Work on the remediation of the Hautu Drive site has been underway since January 2002 and is almost complete. The only hold-up now is due to the winter weather that has left the site too wet for final top-soiling and grass planting.

Before being bought by the Department the site had been a quarry for 30 years. A quarry remediation plan required us to bring the site back to a suitable state.

Construction manager Wayne Otway is pleased with the result. "Eight months ago we were faced with a hilly piece of land covered in weeds, rusting machinery and old quarry material," says Wayne. "The site has been flattened and cleared so that it looks more like a site that you'd expect a corrections facility to be built on."

Digging of three stormwater collection ponds has been completed and the placement of native trees and other plants is due to start shortly.

The design of the facility is also running to schedule. However it is important to note that building work will not occur unless the designation is confirmed and planning approvals are given.

Hui up and running

We have been seeking the involvement of Maori in the new Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility at every step of the way. Recently a new series of marae hui has begun. These hui are planned at this time to make sure that the views and issues raised by marae communities are included in the submissions and hearings processes.

Brownie Rauwhero of Pukaki Ki Te Akitai is facilitating the hui. The team's focus will be information sharing and receiving feedback from Maori about the proposed

corrections facility.

The Department's Treaty Relationships Manager Charlie Tawhiao is working alongside Brownie, presenting the Department's case for a new corrections facility and establishing relationships with iwi. "I am pleased that Brownie has agreed to help us meet with local marae communities so that we can update them on developments and hear directly any concerns they wish to bring to our attention," says Charlie.

Watch this space for an update on how things progress.

Contact us

Corrections Communicator is the newsletter of the Department of Corrections' Regional Prisons Programme. Letters and comments are welcome.

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