

- M I N U T E S -

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of
the Parliamentary Committee of Public Works
held on Tuesday 8 December 1992 at 4.45 pm
at the Sheraton Breakwater Casino, Townsville

Present

Ms J Spence MLA
Mr L Stephan MLA
Mr T Sullivan MLA
Mr B Davidson MLA
Mrs M Woodgate MLA

In attendance: Ms C Keliher, Research Director

The Committee resolved to meet and discuss the issues raised at the hearings of 7 and 8 December and to draft a list of issues which it proposes to address in the reports concerning Townsville Correctional Centre and Kirwan Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre.

**Townsville Correctional
Centre**

The draft report should reflect the following issues:

1. That the upgrade to the Centre is urgently needed and there should be no delays in proceeding with this project.
2. That the brick wall surrounding Division 1 be removed.
3. That the new security fence proposed to be built around the perimeter of the jail be extended to include a perimeter fence around Division 1 and that this project proceed at the earliest possible date.
4. That the Commission pursue the demolition of the visually unappealing and imposing front wall of the jail. This project should proceed in accordance with the Commission's budgetary capabilities and programmed renewal of the perimeter security fence.
5. That maximum consultation processes involving major agencies, both Aboriginal and European, should be conducted as details of the upgrade plans are developed.

6. That the plans for redevelopment of the Correctional Centre include a meeting area for Aboriginals. This area should be identified in consultation with Aboriginal inmates and with the Aboriginal community in general.
7. That the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation Number 173 be implemented. *"that initiatives directed to providing a more humane environment through introducing shared accommodation facilities for community living and other means, should be supported and pursued in accordance with experience and subject to security requirements."* The design of this style of accommodation unit should be done in consultation with the Aboriginal community.
8. That the Commission, taking into account the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Inquiry, provide for prisoner observation cells which facilitate constant and ready observation and surveillance of prisoners at risk.
9. That the design of the programme block in the proposed redevelopment include a meeting place where groups of inmates can interact with community groups.
10. That the programme block proposed for the redevelopment be designed to maximise accessibility, to facilitate provision of literacy and numeracy training, lifeskills training and other programmes to enhance inmates' future opportunities.
11. That the Commission pursue policies and provide facilities which encourage development of Aboriginal art and craft and other industries which are beneficial and of interest to the Aboriginal community within the centre.

12. That the provisions for women within the redevelopment plan be reconsidered so that problems that arise because of the multi-functional nature of the design and variety of security levels required for women, can be more adequately addressed. In particular, the Committee is concerned that small, isolated groups of women within the reserve may well be disadvantaged by the present proposals.

**Kirwan Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Centre**

The Committee discussed the findings of its inquiry into this project and identified the following as matters it wished to note in its report.

1. Drainage. Some Members were doubtful as to the quality of the drainage.
2. Management of the contract.
3. Management information supporting development of the project.
4. Problems associated with the short, select tender list and the design and construct tendering process for this project.
5. The quality of the accommodation was particularly high and Members congratulated the Authority on achieving such high quality facilities, however, they do question the number of kitchens and the facilities provided at the major catering centre.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday of the next Parliamentary sitting week, at 12.30 pm in the Committee Secretariat Meeting Room, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe.

Meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Confirmed this

Twenty fourth

day of

February

1992.

A. Pence
Chairman