



## LETTER TO CESSNOCK STAFF

Dear Staff Member

I am writing to every individual staff member of Cessnock Correctional Centre. I can understand the uncertainty that staff at Cessnock may be experiencing.

I can assure you Cessnock will be contracted out, despite claims circulating in some workplaces to the contrary.

The Government has approved the entire Way Forward Workplace Reform Package which includes the contracting out of Cessnock and Parklea Correctional Centres.

I quote from a recent interview on ABC Radio between our new Minister, the Honourable John Robertson MLC and announcer Richard Glover -

*John Robertson: ... "I'm simply going to tell you that in Corrective Services there are a whole series of reforms that needed to be implemented, one of which is private sector involvement at two out of 30 jails in NSW."*

*... "This isn't about some union strategy or just breaking the union strategy, it's about implementing reforms that need to be implemented in these two prisons."*

*... "and one of the first questions I asked the Commissioner was about jobs, because the Government is committed to protecting jobs and the Commissioner has assured me that any prison officer who wants to retain a job in Corrective Services will have the opportunity of doing so – or, alternately, if they want to transfer across they will be given that option as well."*

The tendering process is on track and I expect that Cessnock will come under contract in July/August 2009.

If you elect to remain with the Department the guarantee that no staff member need lose their job still stands.

I repeat, your options are:

- move to another location within the Department.
- apply for a position with the successful contractor - with salary maintenance for twelve months. *Note: If you elect this option, you will be required to resign from*

*the Department and you will be paid out any recreation and long service leave entitlements.*

- apply for a Voluntary Redundancy.

You are in a different situation to staff at Parklea Correctional Centre in that you may have to relocate if you elect to remain with the Department.

I can assure you I will approve any reasonable request for officers' entitlements under the Transferred Officers' Award.

I can also assure some staff, especially those staff with children at school, that they can start moving earlier rather than later.

Please take advantage of the buses being provided by the Department to visit preferred locations.

You can email me personally if you think you have a special case for consideration. You will receive a prompt response.

Changes are continuing with a plan to shortly open the Outer Metropolitan Multi-Purpose Correctional Centre at Windsor. This Centre will initially hold 250 minimum security inmates, however the profile will change as demand requires.

I will continue to keep you informed personally on a regular basis.

Yours sincerely



**RON WOODHAM**  
**Commissioner**

17 February 2009