



John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW

David Elliott
Minister for Corrections

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST SOD TURNED ON NEW GRAFTON PRISON

Minister for Corrections David Elliott today turned the first sod on the new Grafton Correctional Centre, marking a key milestone in the NSW Government's prison infrastructure plan and delivering jobs and investment to the North Coast.

The 1700-bed facility will be Australia's largest prison and inject more than \$560 million into the local economy, as well as create 1100 jobs during construction and 600 permanent roles once operational.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro, Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts, Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis, Corrective Services NSW Acting Commissioner Luke Grant, and members of the Northern Pathways consortium delivering the project, joined Mr Elliott at the site in Lavadia, about 12.5km out of Grafton.

"This state of the art facility will not only accommodate more inmates, it will also offer a greater focus on rehabilitation, without compromising safety and security," Mr Elliott said. "I thank Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis who has tirelessly campaigned for this project."

Mr Barilaro said the prison would deliver jobs for the area and boost the local economy. "This is part of the NSW Government's commitment to stimulate jobs and growth in regional NSW, ensuring every community receives its fair share of our strong economy," Mr Barilaro said.

Mr Roberts said the new prison would help Grafton grow as a community, and help stimulate a bigger and brighter future for the region. "This critical piece of infrastructure will be delivered through a Public Private Partnership, providing jobs, investment and high quality, efficient, value-for-money correctional services," Mr Roberts said.

Mr Gulaptis said many construction materials and resources would be sourced from the area and training provided to upskill local people. "It is part of an investment right across the North Coast, including a new vocational education centre at Coffs Harbour, and significant upgrades to major roads," Mr Gulaptis said.

Northern Pathways will design, construct, operate and maintain the new Grafton Correctional Centre, on behalf of the NSW Government, for the next 20 years.

An animation of the completed facility is available [here](#)

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