



SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Minimum and Maximum Security Additions and Alterations to Cessnock Correctional Centre

FINAL

**Prepared for
NSW Public Works**

**By
BBC Consulting Planners**

16-157
J:\2016\16-157\Reports\CESSNOCK SIA FINAL v8 26092016.docx

September 2016



Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Scope and Methodology	2
1.3	Existing Social and Economic Impact Assessment.....	3
2.	THE PROJECT	5
2.1	The site.....	5
2.2	The Existing Facility	5
2.3	Proposed Facility	6
2.4	Operational Workforce	7
2.4.1	Staff Recruitment	7
2.5	Construction Workforce.....	7
2.5.1	Construction Employment Opportunities	8
2.6	Labour Source	8
2.7	Visits.....	9
2.7.1	Current Visiting Hours	9
2.7.2	Number of Visitors.....	9
2.8	Security	10
2.8.1	Minimum Security.....	10
2.8.2	Maximum Security.....	10
2.9	Inmate Employment.....	11
2.10	Community Interrelations	12
2.10.1	Community Consultative Committee.....	12
2.10.2	Community Involvement.....	13
3.	DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	14
3.1	Corrective Services NSW Inmates.....	14
3.1.1	NSW Inmate Census.....	14
3.1.2	Corrective Services NSW Inmates.....	14
3.1.2.1	NSW Inmate Census	14
3.1.2.2	Cessnock Correctional Centre.....	15
3.2	Description of Communities	15
3.3	Demographic Overview	16
3.3.1	Current Population	16
3.3.2	Future Population Trends.....	17
3.4	Household Type and Structure.....	18
3.5	Social and Economic Characteristics	18
3.5.1	Ethnicity.....	18
3.5.2	Education	19
3.5.3	Employment and Labour Force Structure	19
3.5.4	Economic Characteristics.....	20
3.6	Surrounding Urban Context.....	21



4.	SOCIAL EFFECTS	22
4.1	Introduction.....	22
4.2	Local Community Concerns	22
4.3	Concerns over Safety and Security Relating to Escapes	23
4.3.1	NSW Trends in Correctional Centre Security	23
4.3.1.1	<i>Escape and Abscond Statistics</i>	<i>23</i>
4.3.1.2	<i>Reasons for Escape</i>	<i>24</i>
4.3.1.3	<i>Offending Behaviour.....</i>	<i>26</i>
4.3.1.4	<i>Time to Plan Escape.....</i>	<i>26</i>
4.3.2	Impact of Existing Correctional Centre	27
4.3.3	Impacts of the Proposed Maximum Security Facility	27
4.3.4	Identified Mitigative Measures.....	27
4.4	Concerns about Effects on Community	29
4.4.1	Likelihood of families of Inmates Moving into the Area.....	29
4.4.2	Increase in Crime	30
4.4.3	Likelihood of Discharged Prisoners Remaining in the Area.....	31
4.4.4	Other Effects on the Community	32
4.5	Stigma and Possible Flow-on Effects	33
4.5.1	Image	33
4.5.2	Impact on Tourism	34
4.6	Positive Community Effects.....	35
4.7	Effect on Accommodation and Housing	36
4.7.1	Visitor Accommodation	36
4.7.2	Public and Community Housing	37
4.8	Effect on Public Transport	39
4.9	Effects on Crime and Policing Services.....	41
4.9.1	Correctional Centre Trends.....	43
4.10	Effect on Health Services	44
4.10.1	Effect on Hospital Services	44
4.10.2	Effect on Drug and Alcohol Services	45
4.10.3	Effect on Community Health Services	46
4.11	Effect on Education and Childcare Services	47
4.11.1	Effect on Childcare Services	47
4.11.2	Effect on Schools	48
4.11.3	Effect on Higher Education Services	49
4.12	Effect on the Indigenous Community.....	51
4.12.1	Effect on Indigenous Employment Opportunities.....	52
4.12.2	Effect on Demand for Indigenous Services.....	52
5.	ECONOMIC EFFECTS	54
5.1	General Employment Trends	54
5.2	Employment Opportunities.....	55
5.2.1	Construction	55
5.2.2	Operation.....	55
5.3	Correctional Centre Expenditure.....	56



5.3.1	Purchasing Policies.....	56
5.3.2	Prison Workforce Expenditure	57
5.3.3	Visitor Expenditure	57
5.4	Multiplier Effect.....	57
5.5	Impact on Property and Land Values	58
6.	SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	60
6.1	Summary	60
6.2	Recommendations.....	61
6.2.1	Minimise Potential Negative Impacts	61
6.2.2	Maximise Positive Economic and Social Impacts	62

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Total Population for the Cessnock State Suburb, Cessnock LGA, and Lower Hunter LGA.....	16
Table 2:	2014 Population Projections for the Cessnock LGA, the Lower Hunter LGA and NSW 2011-2036	17
Table 3:	Selected Population Characteristics for the Cessnock LGA, Lower Hunter LGA and NSW 2006-2031	17
Table 4:	Occupied Private Dwellings	18
Table 5:	Jobs by Industry Type.....	19
Table 6:	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage 2011	20
Table 7:	Trends in escapes by security level/program; 1995/1996 to 2012/2013 (number)...	23
Table 8:	Reason for Escapes	25
Table 9:	Time to Plan Escape.....	26
Table 10:	Tourism Visitation Numbers by LGA – 2014 Profile	35
Table 11:	Public Housing Stock – June 2014.....	37
Table 12:	Comparative Public Housing Waiting Times (all dwelling types) 2015.....	37
Table 16:	Trends in Enrolments in Government Schools in Cessnock, 2004-2013	48
Table 17:	Offender Services & Programs (2016)	50
Table 18:	Median Sale Prices – all dwellings for Cessnock LGA	58

FIGURES

- Figure 1A: Aerial Photo – Detail
- Figure 1B: Aerial Photo - Wider Area
- Figure 2: Site in Context of Cessnock LGA
- Figure 3: Site in Context of Cessnock and Nulkaba Suburb Boundary
- Figure 4: Nearby Facilities - Approximate Location

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Demographic Summary
- Appendix 2: List of Local Agencies Consulted



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Cessnock Correctional Centre ('CCC'), a minimum and maximum-security prison, is located in the suburb of Cessnock, approximately 160km north of the Sydney CBD. The facility has a current capacity for 867 adult male inmates and 20 bed female transit remand Facility, and accommodates inmates of both minimum and maximum security classification, as well as persons on remand. It is the designated reception correctional centre for the Newcastle/Hunter region.

The NSW custody statistics show that there are currently 12,687 adults and 294 juveniles in custody (both remand and sentenced prisoners) in NSW.¹ In June 2015 the Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice announced that the state's prisons were reaching capacity and in addition to recent changes to the NSW bail laws there has been additional pressure on the prison system by keeping more people in custody while they were before the courts. With the NSW prison population estimated to continue to grow, potentially climbing to as high as 17,600 prisoners by 2036 the CCC has been identified as a centre with capacity to expand to provide additional maximum and minimum security beds within the existing prison grounds².

In summary, the proposed additions to the correction facility comprise the following:-

- A new 320 – bed maximum security modular accommodation building;
- A new 280 – bed minimum security modular accommodation building;
- A new 400 – bed maximum security Rapid Build Prison accommodation building; and
- Upgrading existing infrastructure and accommodation buildings associated with the maximum and minimum security sector buildings (including new industries, clinic expansion, new visitor uses and all associated site works and services).

A detailed description of the works proposed is provided in Section 2.3 of this report.

A description of the existing site and the proposed development is included in the Review of Environmental Factors, prepared by JBA.

BBC Consulting Planners has been commissioned by Department of Justice to prepare this Socio Economic Impact Assessment as part of the REF. This report will therefore assess the general socio economic considerations in relation to the minimum and maximum security prison upgrade.

The objectives of undertaking this study are as follows:

- To assess the social and economic impacts of the proposed new facilities on the local community;
- To ensure that the positive effects of the expansion are maximised; and

¹ "NSW Custody Statistics Quarterly Update (March 2016) NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

² Donnelly N., Halstead I., Corben S., Weatherburn D., (2015) *The 2015 NSW prison population forecast*. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Corrective Services Australia.



- Where any negative effects of the development are predicted, to minimise the extent of these and to provide a basis for addressing any issues and problems arising from the new centre.

Achievement of these objectives is seen to be of value both to the local and broader community and the centre.

1.2 Scope and Methodology

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is the analysis of social changes and impacts on a community that are likely to occur as a result of a particular development, planning scheme, or government policy decision. Remembering that not all social change within a community will cause social impacts, and not all population growth in a community will result in a negative social impact, the role of the SIA is to ensure that the process of change is anticipated, prepared for and managed adequately to minimise any potential negative impacts and maximise the positive benefits to the community³.

There are many definitions of social impact. Two definitions suitable to the present assessment are:

- *People's way of life – how they live, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis;*
- *Their culture – that is, their shared beliefs, customs, and values;*
- *Their community – its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities⁴*

And

- *By social impacts we mean the consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organize to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term also includes cultural impacts involving changes to the norms, values, and beliefs that guide and rationalize their cognition of themselves and their society⁵.*

Economic impact assessment is also a useful tool in understanding changes to income, employment opportunities and wider effects in purchasing and spending in the region. Used together, a socio-economic impact assessment can provide a comprehensive, co-ordinated picture of these overlapping issues, providing information on potential economic impacts as well as important social values held by the community which inform likely attitudes and responses to the proposed change.

The social and economic impact assessment has involved the following methodology:-

³ "Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects". (2015) International Association for Impact Assessment.

⁴ "Social Impact Assessment for Local Government: A Handbook for Councillors, Town Planners and Social Planners" (1995) NSW Office of Social Policy.

⁵ "Principles and guidelines for social impact assessment in the USA" by The Interorganizational Committee on Principles and Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, volume 21, number 3, September 2003.



1. **Scoping.** Identifying potentially affected groups and individuals and their issues of concern and the nature of the likely impact – what might happen where and to whom?
2. **Profiling.** Describe the nature of the groups and individuals likely to be affected.
3. **Prediction.** What are the social and economic impacts associated with the development, who is affected and to what extent?
4. **Assessment.** Are these impacts significant given the priorities, policies and programs of Government?
5. **Management, mitigation, monitoring and review.** How can we best manage the potential impacts of this development which we have identified?
6. **Recommendations.** What recommended strategies and actions will produce the best outcomes for the groups or individuals potentially impacted by the development?

The methodology for this study is similar to that used for previous correctional centre socio-economic impact assessments undertaken by BBC Consulting Planners including the assessment of the expansion to the CCC in 2009. It reflects the operations of the existing Centre, and the impacts of the proposed facility, as well as the scope of issues that may arise through consultation with key stakeholders.

The study methodology included:-

- Consultation with relevant local community service providers, welfare agencies and Government agencies; and
- Discussions with Cessnock City Council.
- Literature review of previous studies relating to existing and planned correctional centres (**Section 1.3**)
- Additional consultation undertaken by JBA Urban Planning Consultants (“JBA”).

Community consultation was undertaken by JBA, involving a series of activities designed to inform stakeholders and the community about the project and encourage their participation. This involved the distribution of an informative letter and feedback form via a mail-out to residents and property owners located near the correctional centre as well as key stakeholders including but not limited to the Cessnock Council, Calvary Retirement Village, Mount View High School and the Stonebridge Golf Club.

In addition to the consultation undertaken and managed by JBA, BBC Consultant Planners undertook target consultation during the preparation of this report in order to understand the community and its values, touchstone community issues, and in particular inform the evaluation of potential impacts.

1.3 Existing Social and Economic Impact Assessment

The social and economic impacts of a number of existing and planned correctional centres throughout NSW have been documented in a series of investigations. These studies have informed the basis of our assessment. The following Post-Occupancy social impact studies have been carried out to date:-



- *Mid North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment* prepared by BBC Consulting Planners, August 2007; and
- *Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment* prepared by BBC Consulting Planners, May 2007.

These studies (dated 2007) are the most recent and relevant studies of social impacts associated with prison expansions in NSW and have monitored the following key issues which are identified as being of particular interest:-

- Community fears and concerns regarding the prison;
- Property values and saleability of nearby lands;
- Status of the prison within the community;
- Economic impact of the prison having regard to direct and indirect investment and expenditure;
- Impacts of the prison on temporary accommodation and low cost housing; and
- Impacts on social services generally, including health, childcare, community, crime etc. as a consequence of the facility and visits to the facility.

The studies have found that, in general, existing correctional centres are well established in the social and economic fabric of their communities. Negative social impacts associated with centres are generally minimal or non-existent. While some negative perceptions can be held by members of local communities, these tend to be of a minor nature and do not impact on the day-to-day activities of communities.



2. The Project

2.1 The site

Cessnock is located 160 kilometres north of Sydney, 45 kilometres west of Newcastle and is situated within the Hunter Valley region. It is commonly defined as the southern gateway to the Hunter Valley. The area is characterised by flat valley plains surrounded by mountain ranges to the west and to the south. The region forms part of the traditional lands of the Darkinung people.

Cessnock Correctional Centre is located off Lindsay Street, approximately two kilometres north of Cessnock's town centre, adjacent to the locality of Nulkaba to the north. Directly to the east of the site is an aged care facility and cemetery. Calvary Retirement Community Cessnock provides 336 places and an 80 place hostel. South of the site is residential housing which is being progressively developed along the site's western boundary (Stonebridge housing development) with the Stonebridge Golf course and Mount View High School located further south of the site.

Having regard to the expansion of the Centre in 2009, the site and site surrounds have remained relatively the same with the exception of the Stonebridge housing development located to the south of the site. Subject to a planning proposal in 2013, the Stonebridge Golf Club proposal sought to rezone the land and adjust zone boundaries in order to allow for a new recreation facility and low density residential development. This development has since commenced.

2.2 The Existing Facility

Cessnock Correctional Centre is a minimum and maximum security prison with a current capacity of over 800 inmates and has been operating in the Cessnock area for more than 43 years. The centre has been in operation for more than 43 years and is dedicated to keeping the community safe and reducing reoffending, through measures including education and vocational training. It has a large industries complex employing and training inmates in a variety of jobs including engineering, and food services. It is the designated reception correctional centre for the Newcastle/Hunter region.

The Centre comprises:

- large secure fenced areas, containing a collection of buildings ranging in size from one to three storeys, accommodation, programs, visitor areas, workshops, and playing fields;
- buildings adjacent to, but outside of, the secure fenced area, comprising various reception and administration buildings, sheds and workshops;
- a series of other single storey buildings used for administration purposes;
- a hardstand area to the west and southwest of the secure fenced area used for the storage of demountable buildings, which are refurbished by inmates; and



- other unsealed areas to the south of the secure fenced area which are used for the storage of demountable buildings.

All built structures are located on the eastern half of the site. The western half of the site comprises a mixture of gently undulating, cleared and vegetated land. Some grape vines have been planted between Oakey Creek and Oakey Creek Road.

A large dam is located in the western half of the site, on a tributary of Oakey Creek. A shallow rocky drop-off is situated between the secure area and the dam, providing some distant views toward the west. A second, much smaller dam is located to the immediate north of the hardstand area for the purposes of capturing stormwater runoff.

The centre is operated by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW).

2.3 Proposed Facility

The proposed expansion works include:

- site preparation, vegetation removal, bulk earthworks and the provision of utilities and services;
- an additional 320 maximum security beds in four two-storey accommodation buildings including;
 - industries such as kitchen, education and laundry for the maximum security inmates;
 - program and education spaces
 - playing field and walking tracks
 - Movement control and administration facilities
- an additional 280 minimum security bed facility in six two-storey accommodation buildings including;
 - a programs building and secure entry and visits building for the minimum security inmates;
 - Movement control and administration facilities
 - playing field with a double tennis court;
- A new 400 bed Rapid Build Prison (RBP) to be constructed to the south-west of the existing CCC. The RBP will be a maximum security facility that will include:
 - four accommodation pods that can house up to 100 inmates each;
 - industries buildings containing: Kitchen; Education; and Laundry.
 - secure Fencing.
 - an new gate house and administration building
 - Parking for 160 staff and visitor cars
 - New services compound for generators, substations, water tanks and other services.
- Changes to existing building, including:
 - Changes to the existing reception and visits buildings
 - Changes and upgrades to existing 3 storey accommodation blocks
 - Changes to fencing to integrate the new 320 and 280 complexes with the existing.



- Changes to existing movement control paths within the site.
- Changes to site infrastructure, including
 - 500 additional staff and visitor parking spaces;
 - a modified road layout to include a new main entrance that would connect Lindsay street with the main gatehouse.
 - A new administration and visitor processing building
- landscaping;
- stormwater management; and
- demolition of buildings as required.

The works would be undertaken in accordance with the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* and would be undertaken in stages to facilitate the continued operation of the Centre.

A copy of the overall site plan is provided within the REF.

2.4 Operational Workforce

Additional permanent staff are expected to be employed at the CCC following the completion of the additions within the following categories:

- Custodial officers;
- Industries (overseeing and teaching); and
- Programs (services for inmates).

Overall staffing numbers currently sit at approximately 300. As a result of the facility expansion, it is expected that staffing numbers will increase to approximately 700.

In order to cater for the additional inmate population, additional medical staff will also be employed or contracted by Justice Health to work within the CCC. As a result of the proposed expansion, it is expected that there will be a total of 24 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) employed by Justice Health at the Centre.

2.4.1 Staff Recruitment

Where possible, a proportion of staff will be recruited from within the local community providing an important pool for base grade custodial positions where such positions cannot be filled from within the CSNSW. Industries and non-custodial staff could be recruited locally, where possible, with local staff attracted by advertising positions in the local paper.

2.5 Construction Workforce

Construction of the proposed additions will commence October 2016 with progressive completions in 2017 (400 RBP), 2018 (320 Max & 320 min) and 2019 (refurbishment of existing complex).

The number of workers on site daily is expected to grow progressively as the construction project increases. Up to 500 workers are anticipated to be on-site during the peak construction



phase. During the last month's worker numbers will decline dramatically as construction activity is completed.

2.5.1 Construction Employment Opportunities

Consistent with the information provided to stakeholders on the expansion of Cessnock Correctional Centre, creating local jobs forms part of the government's targets for the employment during construction for apprentices and Aboriginal workers. While it is expected that some workers may come from surrounding suburbs or other areas, where possible local tradespeople are expected to be employed throughout construction of the new facilities⁶.

The contract documentation will contain standard requirements under the Government Apprentice Employment Policy and Training Management Guidelines, requiring the contractor to ensure that 20% of trade work involved in the contract is undertaken by apprentices and that employees receive ongoing training in their discipline.

The contract documentation will also contain requirements under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines. This will include the establishment of an Indigenous Consultative Committee that would involve various stakeholders and would seek to achieve employment for Indigenous Australians on the project.

2.6 Labour Source

The impacts the proposal will have on current labour activities within the area and region as a whole is an important consideration in the assessment of social impacts. The impacts of labour sourcing can vary according to the relationship of an area to larger labour markets and the existence of appropriately skilled labour within the locality.

Previous studies on correctional facility expansions, particularly those undertaken post construction and operation provide valuable data on the labour source including the number of workers inducted on to a construction site and their area of residence at the time. In this regard, the data collated during the construction and post occupancy of prisons in NSW concluded the following:-

- of all of the people inducted on site during the construction of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre at Kempsey (including contractors and construction staff, client representatives, project management staff, suppliers and others), over 66% resided in Kempsey and adjacent local government areas, with over half of those, or 37% in total, being resident in the Kempsey Shire;
- estimates provided during construction of the Wellington Correctional Centre indicated that on average the locally hired component of the construction workforce was consistently around 70%, with an apprentice employment ratio (the ratio of apprentices to qualified tradespersons) of 25.6% and Aboriginal employment of 6.1%. However, it must be noted that Wellington is strategically located within convenient distance to a number of large regional centres which have been well placed to provide suitably skilled construction staff.

⁶ Cessnock Brochure (2016), Expansion of Cessnock Correctional Centre, *Local Jobs*, pg. 2



These previous studies can be used as key indicators for the number of construction jobs to be filled by locals during construction at CCC. However, it is important to note that such numbers also include those workers that moved permanently to the area as a result of the construction of the centre which is assumed to be heavily dependent on the continuity of work in the area.

As detailed in Section 3.5.3 and 5.1 of this report, employment within the suburb of Cessnock and Hunter region has in the past, relied heavily on the mining and manufacturing industry. However, over recent decades such industries have declined resulting in higher rates of unemployment when compared to NSW in general.

Having regard to the above, the construction of the new facilities at the correctional centre is likely to result in employment of labour sources from across the region. It is likely that 50-70% of employment opportunities for suppliers and sub-contractors will be sourced from the local area, given its relative proximity to Newcastle and Sydney and the relative size of these labour markets.

Overall, it is impossible to predict with any certainty the number of construction jobs that will be filled by local workers and the source of the workforce is likely to vary from trade to trade and will be influenced by the circumstances of individual contractors. However, in accordance the previous SEIA (2009), it is not unreasonable to assume, particularly considering the higher proportions of construction, trade and labour occupations of residents within the Cessnock area, that approximately 50-70% of workers on the site would come from the Cessnock area.

2.7 Visits

2.7.1 Current Visiting Hours

At the existing facility, minimum security inmates are able to be visited on Saturday and Sundays and during public holidays between 8.30am and 3.00pm. No bookings are required.

Visiting hours for maximum security inmates at the existing centre are Saturdays and Sundays and public holidays, from 8:45am to 2:30pm. Visits are by appointment only and are pre-booked in one-hour blocks. All inmates may also receive legal visitors by appointment, seven days per week between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm.

It is anticipated that visiting hours for the new maximum security correctional centre will be similar to those currently in place for inmates with a maximum security classification.

2.7.2 Number of Visitors

Current information from the centre indicates that on average, CCC has approximately 3,240 visits to inmates per month⁷. The overall total number of visitors to the Centre per year/month is expected to increase with the additional 1000 beds which has been taken into consideration with the proposed construction of a new visits area for both the minimum and maximum security areas as well as a separate visiting area for the new 400 RBP facility.

⁷ Pers. Comm. – Department of Correctional Services, General Manager Custodial Infrastructure, July 2016



Visitor parking is addressed in the traffic and parking assessment attached to the REF. The report indicates that at least 160⁸ car parking spaces will be provided for the RBP and that 500⁹ car parking spaces for the 600bed facility is sufficient to meet demand during peak times.

2.8 Security

2.8.1 Minimum Security

Currently the minimum security inmates are classified as Category C2 and C3 for the purposes of security. Category C2 inmates are those considered to need some level of supervision by a correctional officer or other authorised person, and are not necessarily confined by a physical barrier at all times. Category C3 inmates are persons who are not required to be supervised and are not required to be confined by a physical barrier at all times.

The primary physical security measure currently used is fencing in conjunction with electronic surveillance and detection systems. Such security systems are enhanced through the use of case management of inmates which helps to facilitate the inmate classification process.

2.8.2 Maximum Security

The RBP and 320 bed complex will house sentenced maximum security offenders that will not be permitted to leave the facility.

The current management strategies for the Centre include the following:

- Security and inmate control rely on “direct supervision”. This key concept involves placing custodial staff in accommodation units where they are in direct sight and sound contact with inmates;
- Groups of inmates (between 50-80 inmates) managed on an area management basis encouraging decentralisation of decision-making and relying on achieving a high level of security through the use of staff-inmate interaction;
- Individual inmate programs managed on a case management basis to encourage structured interaction and personalises the area management process by allocating groups of inmates to multi-disciplinary case-management teams; and
- Inmates will be subject to a structured day to provide for and encourage them to be occupied with either work, education and life skills courses, or constructive recreation and hobby/craft programs for the best part of the working week.

In general, the objectives of the security system are maintained through constructive staff/inmate interaction, complimented by mechanical and electronic devices. With the aim to ensure the safety of the inmates, staff and the local community the following principle objectives of the security system include:

- To prevent inmates from escaping;

⁸ The parking is for staff and visitors, see traffic reports for breakup of parking numbers

⁹ The parking is for staff and visitors, see traffic reports for breakup of parking numbers



- To prevent illegal entry into the correctional centre; and
- To control any aggressive behaviour of inmates towards staff, visitors and other inmates.

2.9 Inmate Employment

Corrective Services NSW has a dual role to protect the community through the safe containment of offenders, and to provide rehabilitation to enable effective reintegration of inmates into society upon release. Prisoner education and employment opportunities are therefore provided through correctional industry programmes which represents an essential offender programme endeavour in contemporary correctional management.

The industries and training areas are a key element of inmate rehabilitation. Prison industries throughout NSW are operated by Corrective Services Industries (“CSI”), a unique commercial unit of CSNSW. The key aims of CSI are:-

- *“Contributing to the security, safety and humanity of corrections by providing meaningful work for offenders.*
- *Advancing the economic good order of Corrective Services NSW through managing cost-effective operations based on a rigorous culture of commercial intensity.*
- *Equipping offenders with foundation employability skills to improve their prospects for employment upon release”¹⁰.*

The trading performance of CSI contributes significantly to reducing the cost of corrections. By working, inmates fulfil the discipline aspect of a corrective environment, while at the same time compensating the community. This is also an important part of inmate transition into the community.

The emphasis of CSI has been to provide offender work programs with the aim of providing ‘work readiness’ capabilities for offenders so as to enhance their prospect of gaining and retaining employment upon release and to contribute to Corrective Services NSW mission of ‘reducing reoffending’.

Employment opportunities for new inmates of the maximum and minimum security classification will be provided in the new facilities within the centre and could include:-

- Specific tasks associated with demountable refurbishment for the Department of Education;
- Engineering (light fabrication);
- Food Services (lunches are prepared for nearby correctional centres, Tomago Periodic Detention Centre and the court cells serving the Cessnock region);
- Commercial laundry operations;

¹⁰ Corrective Services Industries NSW (2016), About CSI, <http://www.csi.nsw.gov.au/Pages/about-csi/about-csi.aspx>



- Motor workshop,
- Staff canteen; and
- Hygiene programs.

In all business and service units, inmates are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of vocational programs as part of the Work Readiness process.

2.10 Community Interrelations

2.10.1 Community Consultative Committee

The establishment of Community Consultative Committees is now a standard practice of the CSNSW, as a function of their correctional centre to inform the community with regards to the construction and operations of centres.

Considering current expansions at correctional centres across NSW, *'Corrective Services is committed to maintaining Correctional Centre Community Consultative Committees, and developing cross government and community agency partnerships to build mutually beneficial alliances with local communities'*¹¹.

The role of Community Consultative Committees includes:

- to assist in the development and maintenance of a positive relationship with the local community;
- to provide a forum for local community consultation and comment on correctional programs and procedures;
- to facilitate the involvement of the local community in correctional centre programs;
- to assist in the resolution of issues arising in the community associated with the centre; and
- to provide a mechanism to identify appropriate programs in which the Correctional Centre can participate and assist the local community¹².

In accordance with Corrective Services NSW Operations Procedures Manual (Section 8.30 Charter for Community Consultative Committees), the General Manager of the Centre is responsible for seeking nominations from individuals and groups in the community interested in sitting on the committee. Where possible, the committee should include a representative from at least two of the following areas:-

- the magistracy

¹¹Corrective Services NSW (2016), Corrective Service; Community Engagement, www.correctiveservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/CorrectiveServices/support-families-community/community-engagement.aspx

¹²Corrective Services NSW (2016), Corrective Service; Community Engagement, www.correctiveservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/CorrectiveServices/support-families-community/community-engagement.aspx



- courts administration
- local government
- the police
- Community Offender Services
- local agencies and organisations providing services to offenders
- local residents
- the council
- local hospitals
- local industry¹³.

In general, activities undertaken through the Committee organisation around NSW have involved inmates assisting community organisations in tree planting, rubbish removal, mowing, welding and other general maintenance, brush clearing and bush care, noxious weed removal, post flood clean-ups, fence repairs and dismantling facilities for show days. The Committees also play an active role in informing and engaging the community during proposed prison expansions as well as working with communities' post construction and occupation to ensure any impacts of the centre are managed appropriately.

At Cessnock Correctional Centre, the Community Consultative Committee has been reformed and will play an important liaison role on a range of issues including construction activities and community projects.

2.10.2 Community Involvement

Minimum security inmates at the new facility, as well as existing minimum security inmates, will have an opportunity to contribute to the community through involvement in CSI activities such as working for not for profit organisations providing basic ground maintenance, tree planting and the like. Such opportunities are subject to future partnerships, developed and arranged by the Community Consultative Committee.

Cessnock Correctional Centre operates a community projects / mobile outreach program in which selected inmates can participate. For example, exhibitions of inmate art have been displayed at Woolombi in previous years. The process of community engagement will continue with the new facility additions as appropriate for the security classification of inmates.

¹³ Ibid.

3. Demographic Profile

3.1 Corrective Services NSW Inmates

3.1.1 NSW Inmate Census

As part of the Australian National Prison Census, a census of NSW inmates who are managed by Corrective Services NSW is conducted annually. As recorded in December 2015 there were 11,788 full time custody inmates in NSW of which 92.7% were male and 7.3% were female. The majority of inmates are aged between 18-44 years (79.2%) born in Australia (77.0%) and have never been married (58.8% at time of reception). 24.2% of all inmates were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders¹⁴.

Of all inmates 50.0% were classified as minimum security, 29.5% medium and 16.3% maximum security level. 76.4% had a known prior imprisonment. 94.8% of inmates lived in NSW (last known address) with 8.1% from Sydney – South West, 7.5% from Inner South West¹⁵.

Trends in the age profile of inmates reveals the inmate population is ageing with 20.9% of the population now aged 45 and over. There has been a decline in the proportion of inmates aged between 18-24 years (39.3% in 1982 and 17.6% in 2015)¹⁶.

Between 2014 and 2015 there were 8,297 discharges from correctional centres in NSW on sentence completion. The majority of discharges were on parole (73.5%) with 26.5% having served their sentence¹⁷.

Detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, who are residing in prisons are counted in the general scope of the Census, however only basic demographic status is available.

3.1.2 Corrective Services NSW Inmates

3.1.2.1 NSW Inmate Census

Detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, who are residing in prisons are counted in the general scope of the Census, however only basic demographic status is available.

As part of the Australian National Prison Census a census of NSW inmates who are managed by Corrective Services NSW is conducted annually. As recorded in December 2015 there were 11,788 full time custody inmates in NSW of which 92.7% were male and 7.3% were female. The majority of inmates are aged between 18-44 years (79.2%) born in Australia

¹⁴ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

¹⁵ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

¹⁶ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

¹⁷ Corrective Services NSW, November 2015. *Population Trends, Full Time Custody 2014-2015*.



(77.0%) and have never been married (58.8% at time of reception). 24.2% of all inmates were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Of all inmates 50.0% were classified as minimum security, 29.5% medium and 16.3% maximum security level. 76.4% had a known prior imprisonment. 94.8% of inmates lived in NSW (last known address) with 8.1% from Sydney – South West, 7.5% from Inner South West.

Trends in the age profile of inmates reveals the inmate population is ageing with 20.9% of the population now aged 45 and over. There has been a decline in the proportion of inmates aged between 18-24 years (39.3% in 1982 and 17.6% in 2015)¹⁸.

Between 2014 and 2015 there were 8,297 discharges from correctional centres in NSW on sentence completion. The majority of discharges were on parole (73.5%) with 26.5% having served their sentence¹⁹.

3.1.2.2 Cessnock Correctional Centre

Cessnock Correctional Centre is a predominately male centre. The 317 maximum security inmates account for 2.7% of the total maximum security inmates in NSW. The 520 male minimum security inmates make up 4.4% of the minimum security inmate population in NSW²⁰.

3.2 Description of Communities

Cessnock City is located in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, about 120 kilometres north of Sydney and 40 kilometres west of Newcastle (see **Figure 2**).

The Cessnock Coast Correctional Centre is also located within the suburb of Cessnock with neighbouring suburb Nulkaba, located to the north and west of the site. As seen in **Figure 4** Cessnock Correctional Centre is located approximately 1.7km from the Cessnock town centre and nearby facilities.

The Cessnock LGA covers a land area of 196,642 hectares, and contains many diverse and isolated settlements. Having regard to the community profile for Cessnock LGA, areas including the suburb of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri are the most densely populated urban areas within the region.

The Cessnock LGA is known for its tourism surrounding the wine industry with the Hunter Valley winegrowing area in the Cessnock LGA known as Australia's oldest wine region and one of the most famous, with around 4,500 acres under vine²¹. Aside from the tourism industry, the area maintains a rural character with its farming and lifestyle acreages surrounding the CCC. Newer residential development has occurred along roads linking Cessnock to other townships, such as Rothbury and Huntlee (the Huntlee New Town) to the north with further residential developing occurring just east of Kurri-Kurri at Heddon Greta.

¹⁸ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

¹⁹ Corrective Services NSW, November 2015. *Population Trends, Full Time Custody 2014-2015*.

²⁰ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

²¹ Cessnock City Council (2013), *Cessnock 2023 Community Strategic Plan*, pg 5

3.3 Demographic Overview

The following demographic profile is based upon data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing for 2011. The purpose of this profile is to provide an understanding of the characteristics of the community within which the CCC is located.

The Census results have been supplemented with other data where available. Three main comparative areas have been used within this demographic profile, the first being the Cessnock State Suburb (SSS) which includes inmates housed within the Cessnock Correctional Centre, the Cessnock LGA, and the State of New South Wales. 2006 census data will also be presented in the SEIA to identify broad trends and changes in demographic composition.

A summary of the demographic analysis recorded by the 2011 Census reveals that the Cessnock suburb was home to 13,673 people, accounting for 26.8% of the LGA population (of 50,840). Overall the Cessnock suburb population has a large proportion of people of working age (54.7%), aged 25-54 years, who live in a family household (67.8%) as a couple with children (37.8%) or couple family without children (36.5%). Only 28.4% of the population are home owners with a median weekly household income of \$870 which is slightly less when compared to that of the Cessnock LGA (1,045).

A table summarising the key demographic features of Cessnock State Suburb, Nulkaba State Suburb, Cessnock LGA, Lower Hunter LGA and the State of NSW has been provided in **Appendix 1**.

3.3.1 Current Population

In 2011 the population of the suburb of Cessnock was 13,673 persons covering 26.8% of the LGA population. Since the 2006 census, there have been changes to the census collected geographic areas. In 2006, the urban area of the township of Cessnock which covered the main township of Cessnock including the location of the correctional centre was identified as the Cessnock-Bellbird Urban Centre Locality. The geographical area has since increased in area to include the area of Neath and Nulkaba as well as other rural areas of Cessnock.

The table below shows that between 2006 and 2011, the population of Cessnock has decrease by approximately 4644 persons (-25%) whereas the Cessnock LGA population grew by 9.1% and the Lower Hunter LGA grew by 6.2%.

Table 1: Total Population for the Cessnock State Suburb, Cessnock LGA, and Lower Hunter LGA

Area	2006	2011	2006-2011 Change	
	Persons	Persons	Persons	%
Cessnock State Suburb	18,317*	13,673	4,644	-25.4%
Cessnock LGA	46,206	50,840	4,634	9.1%
Lower Hunter LGA	4,119,190	4,391,674	272,484	6.2%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, 2006 & 2011.

*Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA's) in 2011 replace the current 2006 Capital City Statistical Divisions reflecting changes to the Greater Sydney boundary.

Age Structure

- The Cessnock State Suburb ("Cessnock SSC") had a slightly lower proportion of children aged 14 years and under in 2011, compared to the Cessnock LGA (12.2% and 14.1% respectively).
- In 2011, 37.6% of residents in the Cessnock SSC were aged 25-54, a higher proportion than that recorded within the Cessnock LGA and NSW (39.5% and 41.4% respectively).
- The Cessnock SSC had a lower proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (12.1%) compared to the Cessnock LGA, Lower Hunter LGA and NSW (14.1%, 13.5% and 14.7% respectively).

3.3.2 Future Population Trends

The most recent population projections for the Cessnock LGA have been obtained from the Department of Planning Transport and Planning Data Centre (**Table 2** below). Projections for the Lower Hunter LGA and NSW are also provided for comparison. As can be seen, the rate of annual population growth in the Cessnock LGA is projected to be 1.2% per annum between 2011 and 2031, compared to 0.86% in the Lower Hunter during the same period. NSW will experience a similar rate of annual population growth at 1.2%.

Table 2: 2014 Population Projections for the Cessnock LGA, the Lower Hunter LGA and NSW 2011-2036

	Cessnock LGA	Lower Hunter LGA	NSW
2011	52,500	864,650	7,218,550
2016	55,900	911,700	7,708,850
2021	59,550	959,550	8,230,400
2026	63,000	1,006,400	8,739,950
2031	66,400	1,050,550	9,228,350

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Transport and Population Data Centre (2014 release)

Table 3: Selected Population Characteristics for the Cessnock LGA, Lower Hunter LGA and NSW 2006-2031

Year	Cessnock LGA			Lower Hunter			NSW		
	% aged 0-14	% aged 15-64	% aged 65+	% aged 0-14	% aged 15-64	% aged 65+	% aged 0-14	% aged 15-64	% aged 65+
2011	22	65	13.8	18.9	63.8	17.2	18.9	66.5	14.5
2016	22.9	62.8	16.1	18.5	62.6	18.8	18.8	65.0	16.0
2021	21.1	60.6	18.1	18.4	61	20.4	18.9	63.5	17.4
2026	20.9	58.8	19.8	18.3	59.2	22.3	18.8	62.1	18.9
2031	20.5	58.3	21	18	58.1	23.8	18.5	61.3	20.1

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Transport and Population Data Centre (2014 release)

- The proportion of the population 65 years and older is expected to increase in all areas as populations age. In the Lower Hunter the proportion of 65 years and older is expected to increase from 17.2% of the population in 2011 to 23.8% by 2031. Similarly, in NSW 65 year olds and older account for 14.5% of the population in 2011 and are expected to increase to 20.1% in 2031. The Cessnock LGA will experience the greatest proportional increase of its population aged 65 year olds and over to 2031. The proportion of the population aged 65 years and older will increase from 13.8% in 2011 to 21% in 2031.

- Concurrently, Cessnock LGA will experience a decline in the proportion of the population 14 years and under from 22% of the population in 2011 to 20.5% in 2031. Both the Lower Hunter and NSW will experience a more stable proportion of the population 14 years and younger from 18.9% of the population to 18% and 18.5% in 2031 respectively.

3.4 Household Type and Structure

Table 4: Occupied Private Dwellings

Occupied Private Dwellings:	Cessnock		Nulkaba	
Separate House	4,205	78.6%	173	89.2%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house,	364	6.8%	0	0.0%
Flat, unit or apartment	323	6.0%	0	0.0%
Other dwellings	27	0.5%	3	1.5%
Not stated	5	0.1%	0	0.0%

Source: 1 ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile 2011

*Housing structure calculated from profile.id based on classification of "medium and high density" housing.

Suburbs adjacent to the Cessnock SSC include Nulkaba, Bellbird Heights and Aberdare.

- At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 16,708 private dwellings in the Cessnock LGA, of which 4,205 (78.6%) were located in the Cessnock SSC. There were also 1209 new dwellings approved in the LGA between June 2011 and June 2014.
- Separate dwellings were the most common form of dwelling in the Cessnock SSC in 2011 (78.6%). The proportion of this type of dwelling in the SSC was moderately less than the adjoining suburbs including Nulkaba (89.2%), Bellbird Heights (98.2%) and Aberdare (87.8%).
- The rate of home ownership (including in the process of being purchased) in the Cessnock SSC (61.5%) was less than the Cessnock LGA (71.1%) and the State average of 66.6%.
- There was a higher proportion of dwellings being rented (34%) compared to that for the Cessnock LGA (25.2%) and NSW (30.1%).
- The proportion of couple families with children in the Cessnock SSC (37.8%) was lower than Cessnock LGA (41.8%), both of which are lower than the State average (45.5%). Conversely, the proportion of single parent families in the Cessnock SSC (24.2%) was higher than the Cessnock LGA and NSW (20.3% and 16.3% respectively).

3.5 Social and Economic Characteristics

3.5.1 Ethnicity

- In 2011, there were 720 (5.3%) residents of the Cessnock SSC that described themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island origin. This proportion is higher than both the Cessnock LGA and NSW, where 4.8% and 2.5% of the respective populations are of indigenous origin.

- In Cessnock SSC, the proportion of persons from a non-English speaking background is 2.8%. In terms of culturally diversity, the Cessnock SCC has a higher proportion of people from non-English speaking background when compared to the Nulkaba State Suburb (0.9%) and the Cessnock LGA (2.5%) while being significantly less than NSW with 18.6%.
- In the Cessnock SSC the two most common non-English speaking groupings were Indo-Aryan and Southeast Asian Austronesian while the two most common groupings recorded within the Cessnock LGA were Asian Austronesian and Chinese. By comparison the most common non-English speaking groupings for NSW were Chinese and Arabic.

3.5.2 Education

- Excluding detainees at CCC, 22.2% of people in the Cessnock SSC had completed Year 12 (or equivalent) of schooling compared to Cessnock LGA (24.9%) and the Lower Hunter LGA (27.8%).

3.5.3 Employment and Labour Force Structure

- Excluding the detainees at CCC, a smaller proportion (48.3%) of people aged over 15 in the Cessnock SSC were in the labour force compared to Cessnock LGA (55.9%) the Lower Hunter LGA (59.0%).
- 7.4% of persons in Cessnock were unemployed, compared to 6.5% in Cessnock LGA and 5.3% in the Lower Hunter LGA.
- The most common industries for employed persons living in the Cessnock SSC were Health care and social assistance, retail trade as well as accommodation and food services. Whereas in the Cessnock LGA the most common industries for employed persons were mining, manufacturing, retail trade as well as Health care and social assistance.

Table 5: Jobs by Industry Type

Industry Type	Cessnock SSC		Cessnock LGA		Lower Hunter LGA	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	76	1.5%	378	1.8%	1,225	3.1%
Mining	518	10.5%	2,126	10.2%	5,078	14.1%
Manufacturing	519	10.5%	2,598	12.4%	3,729	10.3%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	44	0.9%	238	1.1%	565	1.6%
Construction	308	6.2%	1,594	7.6%	2,665	7.4%
Wholesale trade	121	2.4%	540	2.6%	984	2.7%
Retail trade	644	13.0%	2,395	11.5%	3,677	10.2%
Accommodation and food services	645	13.0%	2,036	9.7%	3,022	8.4%
Transport, postal and warehousing	144	2.9%	825	4.0%	1,393	3.9%
Information media and telecommunications	23	0.5%	122	0.6%	194	0.5%

Industry Type	Cessnock SSC		Cessnock LGA		Lower Hunter LGA	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Financial and insurance services	62	1.3%	287	1.4%	477	1.3%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	78	1.6%	309	1.5%	558	1.5%
Professional, scientific and technical services	124	2.5%	709	3.4%	1,297	3.6%
Administrative and support services	168	3.4%	706	3.4%	1,200	3.3%
Public administration and safety	220	4.4%	888	4.3%	1,679	4.7%
Education and training	229	4.6%	1,016	4.9%	1,866	5.2%
Health care and social assistance	609	12.3%	2,265	10.8%	3,391	9.4%
Arts and recreation services	49	1.0%	240	1.1%	323	0.9%
Other services	244	4.9%	1,074	5.1%	1,853	5.1%
Not stated	125	2.5%	536	2.6%	890	2.5%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile.

3.5.4 Economic Characteristics

- The ABS has developed four indexes, known as Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) which provide an indication of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area, relative to other areas. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. The Index of Socio Economic Advantage and Disadvantage is a general socio-economic index created through a summary of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. Generally, a higher score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage and a greater advantage in general. A higher score can be a result of many households with high incomes or many people in skilled occupations as well as few households living in the area with low incomes or few people working in unskilled occupations.
- SEIFA 2011 scores are outlined below in **Table 6** to provide an indication of the relative level of advantage and disadvantage within the Cessnock Suburb, and the Cessnock LGA. The results for the 2011 Index of Disadvantage show that the Cessnock LGA has a Socio-Economic Disadvantage score of 939, which places it in the lowest 21% of the State compared too other LGAs.
- The Cessnock SSC is relatively more disadvantage and less advantaged in general compared to other suburbs within the Australia. The Cessnock LGA is also more disadvantage and less advantaged in general compared too other LGAs in Australia.

Table 6: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage 2011

	Area	Score	Ranking within Australia	
			Decile	Percentile
SEIFA Advantage and Disadvantage	Cessnock SSC	885	1	10
	Cessnock LGA	922	3	21



SEIFA Disadvantage	Cessnock SSC	897	2	11
	Cessnock LGA	936	3	23

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile.

3.6 Surrounding Urban Context

CCC is located at the fringe of the Cessnock township, at the confluence of urban, rural and rural residential localities.

Directly north of the site comprises a mix of large rural blocks and low density residential development. The zoning of this area of Cessnock anticipates a slight change in the density and uses of this area in the future.

The area to the north east of the Centre have been developed for rural-residential purposes and comprises a mix of large lot residential development, agricultural land uses and low density residential development.

Directly to the east of the site is an aged care facility known as the Calvary Retirement Community Cessnock. It currently provides 296 aged care places and additional hostel and respite places. To the north of the Nursing home, at the corner of Wine Country Drive and Kerlew Street, is a cemetery.

South east of the site is accessed via an established low density residential area comprising the north western edge of Cessnock whilst directly south of the site is Stonebridge Golf Course.

The western site boundary adjoins Oakey Creek Road. Land to the north west, west and southwest of the Site, across Oakey Creek Road, is part of the extensive Cessnock vineyards district.

4. Social Effects

4.1 Introduction

Social impacts in relation to new correctional centres are generally related to fear of escapees and the safety and security of residents of the adjoining neighbourhoods. Based upon the results of recent community feedback from the consultation process undertaken by JBA in the preparation of this REF, some sections of the local community in Cessnock hold a similar view about the Cessnock Correctional Centre, specifically both the existing facility and the proposed new facility.

As a scoping document, this review is based on background research, compilation of a demographic profile, a review of key policies and relevant reports, and the outcomes of interviews with key stakeholders and community representatives. Where relevant, key findings from JBA's community consultation are included in this SEIA, and a summary is contained in the REF prepared by JBA. In addition to JBA's consultation, a list of key stakeholders and departments contacted by BBC Consultant Planners during the preparation of this SEIA are identified in **Appendix 2**.

In the case of the subject development it is relevant to note that:-

- the proposed development is an extension within the site of an existing correctional centre;
- the proposed buildings and the building platforms will still enjoy a setback from the surrounding land zoned for residential purposes;
- the facility will have a perimeter security zone that meets NSW Correctional Service standards;
- activities will be managed by qualified Corrective Services Industries staff and the community will not be exposed to any undue risk; and
- the proposed development is within the confines of an existing correctional centre and is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of the surrounding residential areas as outlined in the REF.

4.2 Local Community Concerns

The major issues arising about the social impacts of the facility expansion at CCC included:-

- Concern over ability for Cessnock Hospital to cope with increased pressures;
- Concern about anti-social behaviour from relatives and friends visiting the centre and the impact that will have on the local community;
- Concern about the lack of supporting infrastructure for the expansion (i.e. roads, schools and hospitals);
- Concern about safety and the current lack of policing in and around the prison;

- Concerns raised regarding the cost-benefit of the proposal on Cessnock as a town and its reputation; and
- Concerns raised over whether inmates reside in the area upon release.

The issues raised by the community are consistent with the issues raised within the previous socio economic impact assessment of the facility in 2009. During target consultation, stakeholders were in some instances able to provide feedback on whether such issues eventuated after construction and during occupation of the facility expansion in 2009 which is helpful to determine if such issues are likely to eventuate during the proposed expansion.

4.3 Concerns over Safety and Security Relating to Escapes

Concerns over safety and security for local residents and communities is a common issue raised during consultation for correctional centres. This relates to the likelihood of escapes as well as the impact on the community once an inmate is released which is discussed in section 4.4 of this report.

As mentioned previously in section 2.8 of this report, CCC has a range of security measures in place to effectively manage and restrict movements of both minimum and maximum security inmates.

4.3.1 NSW Trends in Correctional Centre Security

4.3.1.1 Escape and Abscond Statistics

Managed by CSNSW, a Census of NSW Inmates is conducted on an annual basis to include an assessment on all NSW inmates, held in full time custody and of inmates with a 'live' order for periodic detention. The data presented is sourced from Corrective Services NSW with reliance upon the NSW Inmate Census. Whilst noting that the figures in relation to escapes and absconds are last reported in 2012/13 the data is the best available to assist in basing an analysis.

In accordance with **Table 7** below, escapes from maximum security centres have remained uniformly low since 1979. Whilst one escape recorded during 2012/13 occurred from within a maximum security facility, the remainder were from minimum security facilities and during some form of escorted or unescorted release period, such as a work release program. Minimum security detainees largely comprise minor offenders and those nearing the end of their sentences. Minimum security institutions hold inmates who can generally be trusted in open conditions where there are fewer physical barriers to escape. An escape or attempted escape will more often result in movement of the inmate to a more secure institution.

Table 7: Trends in escapes by security level/program; 1995/1996 to 2012/2013 (number)

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
From within maximum security	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
From within medium security	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	3	-

From within minimum security	47	15	7	24	12	6	6	10	2	20	11	5
Area adjacent to a maximum or medium security	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malabar fines unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Escorted external work party	1	5	7	1	5	1	2	1	2	3	8	2
Escorted external sport/education	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Escorted - other (eg hospital)	3	1	1	3	3	-	1	1	1	3	-	1
Day/weekend leave	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unescorted education programs	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Work release programs	2	-	1	2	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	1
Other unescorted authorised absence	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Court complex	9	7	3	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Transport (including transfers)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Periodic detention	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	79	31	22	32	27	10	10	17	9	29	24	10
Rate per 100 offender years	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1

Source: NSW Department of Corrective Services Statistical Report 2012/13, Table 18a

Having regard to the above, the rate of escapes across NSW has dropped considerably since 2010-2011 which had a total of 29 escapes. Currently, the rate of 10 escapes recorded in 2012-2013 is at one of the lowest on record. The number of escapes has therefore fallen by 87% since the record high in 2001-2002 (79 escapes). This is despite the full-time population of correctional centres increasing by 25% during the same period, from 8,154 inmates in 2002 to 10,933 in 2015.

From late 1988, additional strategies designed to decrease the number of escapes were introduced across NSW. These included building more fences, increasing supervision of inmates in minimum security camps and legislation to increase the penalty for escape. Case management practices have also helped in proactively identifying and dealing with issues that may lead to a desire to escape prior to an escape occurring.

4.3.1.2 Reasons for Escape

Internationally, there is relatively little published literature analysing prison escapes, and many of the studies available are based on dated data. The most recent study undertaken in NSW was a longitudinal study by the Research and Statistics Unit of the CSNSW over the period 1985 to 1992 to identify the reasons inmates escape. This study reported that about half the respondents said they escaped because of family (or similar) problems outside, and about a

fifth of the respondents said they had escaped because of pressure from other inmates. Many escapes are spontaneous - over half had been planning the escape for less than a day. The following table shows the percentage of the recaptured escapees to whom interview forms were sent who reported they had escaped for each category of reason.

Table 8: Reason for Escapes

Reason	Date of Escape			
	Pre 88/89 (%)	88/89 to 91/92 (%)	92/93 onwards (%)	Total (%)
Outside Problems	38	41	31	36
Threats from Other Inmates	12	18	14	14
Pressure Use/Carry Drugs	2	2	1	2
Obtain Drugs/Alcohol	2	3	2	2
Under Influence Drugs/Alcohol	5	5	5	5
Conflict with Staff	1	4	3	3
Could Not Cope with Imprisonment	6	7	11	8
Did Not Want to be Transferred	3	6	4	4
Parole/Extradition/Deportation Concerns	3	2	1	2
Persuaded by Companion	3	3	1	2
Other	5	10	8	8
Refused Interview	5	8	3	5
Form Not Returned	26	9	23	20

Source: DCS Research and Statistics Unit, 1996

Concern about a problem at home was the most common reason for escape. Specifically, concerns ranged from crisis situations (for example, the inmate's wife was suffering from post-natal depression and had twice attempted suicide) to wanting to find out why visits had stopped.

For an appreciable number of escapes, the reason given was that the inmate feared for his safety. There were also escapes related to drug use where the inmate was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of escape or claimed to have escaped to avoid pressure to use drugs in the correctional centre.

Some inmates claimed they escaped because of anger at their treatment by the Department, for example transfers without notice. However, many responses seemed to indicate the decision to escape was made on the spur of the moment, either as a response to a general dislike of imprisonment, or for a reason the inmate was not willing to state.

In a handful of escapes, the inmate had been accidentally late returning from leave.

The Research and Statistics Unit noted that it was often difficult to deduce the reason for escape from the abridged questionnaires. Also, in quite a large percentage of cases no completed questionnaire was received.

Characteristics of escapees in NSW or Australia have not been reported, however studies in the US have found that there is significant relationship between escape and both age and committing offence, with younger offenders more likely to escape, but no significant relationship between escape and race or sex.

4.3.1.3 Offending Behaviour

The 1992 NSW study found that three quarters of escapees were not convicted of any offences whilst at large, a finding which has been supported through other studies of court statistics in both NSW and the US.

Information provided by Corrective Services NSW' Research and Statistics Unit indicates that between July 1988 and June 2000, 80% of escaped inmates were not convicted of any offence while at large. Offences committed by those who were convicted included break, enter and steal, driving while disqualified, and motor vehicle theft. Assault and use of arms or offensive weapons is relatively uncommon.

An Article published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology entitled '*Escapes from new south wales gaols: placing the risk in perspective*' provides further evidence to suggest that more than one-quarter of escapees are recaptured on either the day of escape or the following day and that majority of escapees (74.2%) were not convicted of committing any crimes or offences while at large²².

Data on the recapture of escapees is less accurate and relatively little detailed study has been undertaken²³. One finding from an analysis of data in the United States has found that the capture rate improves as the security level increases, for example 69% from work release programs, 84% from low-security and minimum security facilities and 92% from medium security and high-security facilities²⁴.

4.3.1.4 Time to Plan Escape

Most recaptured escapees involved in the 1992 NSW study had planned their escape for less than a day, with 85% planning it for less than a week.

Table 9: Time to Plan Escape

Time to Plan Escape	Date of Escape			Total (%)
	Pre 88/89 (%)	88/89 to 91/92 (%)	92/93 Onwards (%)	
Day	66	59	71	66
Week	19	22	18	20
Month	10	9	6	8
Month +	5	10	5	7

Note:

Day = less than a full day

Week = a day or more, but less than a week

Month = a week or more, but less than a month

Month + = a month or more

Source: DCS Research and Statistics Unit, 1996

²² Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology December 1991 vol. 24 no. 3 204-218

²³ The Department of Corrective Services' Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics Unit intends to explore the motivation behind inmate escapes and the potential risk these inmates pose to the community as part of a second planned stage of the "Trends in escapes" project (Department of Corrective Services, "Trends in escapes from NSW Department of Correctives custody", Research Bulletin No. 22, November 2006, p. 2)

²⁴ Culp, R (2005) "Frequency and Characteristics of Prison Escapes in the United States: An analysis of national data", *The Prison Journal*, 85(3), pp 270-290.



4.3.2 Impact of Existing Correctional Centre

Previous studies undertaken by BBC Planners have revealed that community concerns are somewhat alleviated by a clear understanding of a correctional centre's inmate security classification and the centre's security measures and operations. Communities previously consulted by BBC Planners have indicated that they have felt a greater sense of security in the knowledge that local correctional centres have been maximum security facilities resulting in the view that there is reduced likelihood of inmate escape from this form of detention²⁵.

The new facilities will be designed and managed to ensure there is low risk of escapes. In addition to the physical security measures (i.e. perimeter fences) there will be continued close case management and gathering of intelligence which will form an integral part to overall security at the centre and assist as a major deterrent to escapes.

Staff at all levels at the correctional centre will continue to receive comprehensive security training. In addition, it is recommended that the established Emergency Response Plan for the existing correctional centre is updated to ensure the procedures to be followed in the event of an escape or abscond and the notification procedure for neighbours and the surrounding community are reviewed and updated where necessary.

4.3.3 Impacts of the Proposed Maximum Security Facility

The proposed facility includes the provision for 320 new maximum security beds in four two-storey accommodation buildings as well as a new RBP maximum security facility which will include four accommodation pods that can house up to 100 inmates each. This is in addition to the existing 250 maximum security beds. As mentioned previously, escapes from maximum security centres have remained uniformly low since 1979 due to the increase in security. The new maximum security facility will be appropriately secured for prisoners of this security classification.

4.3.4 Identified Mitigative Measures

The proposed new maximum and minimum security facilities will be managed and operated in accordance with the existing security provisions on site which has been designed and managed to reduce the potential for escapes.

Two five-metre perimeter fences are the primary physical security measure on site for the maximum security facilities. The minimum security facility will have a single 5m high fence. In addition to physical security, 'dynamic security', including close case management, the latest fingerprint and eye scanning technology, infrared cameras able to track each prisoner's movements around the facility through the electronic database all form an integral part of the overall security at the correctional centre. These security measures are a major deterrent to escapes. Staff at all levels at the correctional centre also receive comprehensive security training.

In addition to physical security measures, it is understood that the Centre has an established Emergency Response Plan which sets out the procedures to be followed in the event of an escape or abscond and the notification procedure for neighbours and the surrounding

²⁵ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg. 14.



community. It is therefore recommended as part of this report that the Emergency Response Plan be updated to include measures for the proposed maximum and minimum security facilities proposed.

As mentioned previously, currently there is no work release programme operating from the centre. It is envisaged that this will remain the case with the provision of the new facilities. Accordingly, there will be no maximum security prisoners permitted to work outside of the complex. As part of education and training provided by Corrective Services Industries, minimum security inmates undertake internal ground maintenance as well as external ground maintenance work which occurs outside of the secure fence, but within the prison grounds. Those inmates permitted to work outside the secure fence are deemed to be a low security risk to the community and are checked regularly by supervisors.

In order to reduce prisoner movements and transportation, video conferencing facilities in use in the NSW prison system are being utilised to reduce the number of inmates being escorted to and from parole and court hearings and therefore decreases the opportunity for inmates to escape whilst in court. There are three existing linking facilities in the correctional centre to minimise the need to transport maximum security inmates for court appearances.²⁶

Strategic directives implemented by the CSNSW have focussed on reducing risks of re-offending (a State Plan priority) and consequently increasing community safety. As part of CSNSW case management policy, 'Throughcare Strategic Framework' serves to coordinate information relating to individual inmates and facilitate the identification and implementation of specific programs and services for individual inmates to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. The program serves to provide particular attention to a 'continuum of care', during transition from the community to custody and custody to the community²⁷. These measures aim to improve community safety by reducing rates of reoffending.

CSNSW also allocates funds and resources to factors known to increase risks of reoffending such as drug and alcohol use and homelessness through the 'What Works' strategic framework. International research known as the 'What Works' literature provides an assessment of an inmate and their potential risk of reoffending. Such risks are then targeted by accredited programs run by the centre²⁸.

As detailed above, CSNSW Throughcare activities and specific facility design features will suppress opportunities for escape from the centre. These include:-

- attention to individual coordinated case management so that case workers are aware of potential problems that can lead to a desire to escape (family issues, inmate issues etc);
- the presence of high security physical barriers to escape in the form of a high fence and associated electronic surveillance and detection systems; and

²⁶ Department of Commerce and Department of Corrective Services (2009) Meeting with Cessnock Local Court and Mediate Today, 5 March 2009.

²⁷ NSW Department of Corrective Services, Offender Classification & Case Management Policy & Procedures Manual, Chapter 3.1 Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) Case Management Policy, V1.4 January 2016

²⁸ Ibid.



- clear delineation and understanding of the repercussions of escaping.

In line with these measures, and based on experience at Kempsey and Lithgow, escapes or absconds from the proposed facility are unlikely.

4.4 Concerns about Effects on Community

4.4.1 Likelihood of families of Inmates Moving into the Area

Previous studies show that community concerns can relate to the increased likelihood of families of inmates relocating to the local area and the subsequent impact that this would have on community services and facilities.

In this regard, while it is impossible to account for the number of families of inmates that may move into the area as a result of the facility expansion, previous studies, particularly those that assess the impacts of a correctional centre during both construction and post occupancy provide data to suggest that such effects are limited and relatively low. This is establishing in the following findings:-

- Research in the Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, in both 1998 and 2007, showed that very few families of inmates had relocated to Lithgow in order to be closer to a partner or family member incarcerated within the maximum security Lithgow Correctional Centre. The Department of Housing advised that it was only aware of approximately 5-6 requests per year from families of inmates wishing to relocate to Lithgow.
- A low incidence of inmates' families moving to an area to be closer to a family or partner in minimum or medium security correctional facility was also reported in findings from a post-occupancy assessment undertaken for the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre.²⁹ In research for the Junee Centre it was reported that the incidence of families moving to Junee was low because families did not want to be identified as being related to an inmate, preferring the anonymity of a larger town.

Further to the above, findings from previous studies of correctional centres in NSW and New Zealand revealed the following rationale for this low incidence:-

- There is an uncertainty of the length of stay due to the rotation of inmates between institutions. Movement may occur as a result of the inmates "programmed pathway", reclassification of security level, prisoner preference, prevention of unhealthy associations, changing management policies at the prison, personality conflicts, and so on;
- The correctional centre is open for visits only on public holidays and weekends. Cessnock can be visited as a day or overnight trip from Sydney, involving a 2-3 hour drive in each direction. NSW Transport provide a direct service to the Centre via bus which are limited to Saturdays and Sundays (see Section 4.7). There is also a train station at Morisset, however there is presently no public transport connection from the station to the correctional centre.

²⁹ Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, prepared by BBC Planners, 2007.



- With respect to public housing tenants, accepting a property in Cessnock means that the family will be required to apply for a transfer back to Sydney or their original location of choice. Should they wish to move back to Sydney, for example, they will be forced to re-join the waiting list, currently up to ten years in length;
- Families of inmates have the need for assistance from established social networks, and often prefer to remain in a familiar environment;
- Economic and social difficulties often prevent relocation. These difficulties include rehousing, changing schools or jobs, and loss of friends and family; and
- The construction of regional facilities has enabled inmates to be placed at institutions generally closer to their former place of residence or near their families thus reducing the need for families to move to be close to inmates. The construction of the maximum security facility at Cessnock will enhance the correctional facility's ability to operate as a regional facility.

Having regard to the above, it is unlikely that there would be a significant number of people moving to the local area to be closer to an inmate as a result of the proposed prison expansion. In addition to this, it is understood that allocation procedures of inmates involve the placement of inmates in centres close to home where possible which would further reduce the potential for a family of an inmate moving to the area.

Having regard to previous investigations conducted in association with the additions to the Cessnock Correctional Centre in 2009, consultation with relevant stakeholders indicated that the relocation of families of inmates was minimal with little or no impact on existing community services and facilities within local areas. As such, stakeholders providing social housing to the community where consulted as a part of this assessment in order to determine if such findings are consistent with the current operations of the centre. A list of key stakeholders is provided in **Appendix 2**.

The Department of Housing advised that they receive very few enquiries or requests from families wishing to relocate closer to correctional centres in order to be closer to an inmate and that given current demand for social housing within the state of NSW, such requests to move closer to a correctional centre would not take high priority. Requests for social housing involving a child at risk or persons with disabilities are priority requests for relocation for the Department of Housing.

Similarly, Compass Housing Services indicated that they are not aware of any requests from families wanting to move closer to the Cessnock Correctional Centre however, it was also noted that the organisation is not privy to the reasons for people wanting to live in Cessnock.

Overall, the research and consultation to date suggests it is likely that the same influences will result in similarly low levels of families relocating to the Cessnock area. The continuation of visiting hours being restricted to weekends only is also likely to limit the number of families or partners of inmates relocating to Cessnock.

4.4.2 Increase in Crime

It is a commonly held fear that the introduction of a correctional facility to an established community will lead to increased crime rates associated with crimes committed by visitors to



the centre. The 1998 SEIA for Lithgow Correctional Centre, prepared eight years after the Lithgow Correctional Centre commenced operations, found that the community held a perception that drug offences and car theft had increased, as a direct result of the centre. However, analysis of crime statistics indicated that that crime in fact decreased in Lithgow over the period by 5%, while it increased by 25% in NSW during the same period. Current crime rates in relation to Cessnock are discussed in greater detail in Section 4.8, however it can generally be said that crime rates have remained stable in Cessnock over the last 10 years even with the addition of the 250 bed maximum security centre in 2009.

The general comment should be made that the majority of visitors to inmates are law abiding citizens. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that visits to inmates are tightly controlled. All visitors to the current maximum security section of the correctional centre must make appointments in advance with the Centre and this policy will also apply to the new maximum security facility. All visitors must supply a number of forms of identification, and are subject to identification via 'thumb print' or retinal scan technology, and a photograph of each visitor is taken and placed on file. Visitors are also screened for drugs and other contraband.

Discussions with CSNSW staff has also confirmed that regularly meetings are held with the Police Local Area Commanders whereby no information or evidence has been provided to suggest that the risk of crime increases as a result of visitors to the centre. Further to this, CSNSW have also confirmed that the NSW Police and CSNSW regularly perform targeted operations at the Centre so as to apprehend any person who is not complying with expected law and order.³⁰

4.4.3 Likelihood of Discharged Prisoners Remaining in the Area

There is often a concern amongst the community and some service providers that the increased capacity at the correctional centre would increase the likelihood of crimes being committed in the area by released inmates, either immediately after their release or if they chose to remain in the area for longer periods.

In general, it is difficult to determine the likelihood of inmates remaining within the area upon release. However, previous studies are helpful in determining inmate trends upon their release. SEIAs prepared for the Lithgow and Mid North Coast Correctional Centres, as well as other research undertaken at Junee (Environmetrics, 1999) have found that few inmates choose to stay in the town after their release, unless they were already resident in the area. This may be because released inmates are likely to be identified by police and correctional centre staff, and therefore feel it to be more difficult to re-assimilate into the community. This is consistent with findings from the previous SEIA (2009).

Findings from previous SEIAs also reveal that the Department of Housing reported few cases of released inmates choosing to remain in the area who did not already have family in the area. This is consistent with the targeted stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of this assessment. Further to this, previous consultation regarding Lithgow Correctional Centre revealed that housing authorities and welfare organisations in Lithgow received a small number

³⁰ Pers. Comm. – Department of Correctional Services, General Manager Custodial Infrastructure, July 2016



of requests to assist inmates upon their release.³¹ However, it was noted that in most of these cases, the inmates were already residing in the Lithgow area prior to serving their sentences.

A similar experience was found to occur at Kirkconnell in Bathurst where centre management advised that inmates almost always return to their home area upon release. This was said to be influenced by a number of factors. Transport is arranged upon release for inmates to return to their home or location of arrest. Prior to release, arrangements are made with service providers near to home for the provision of on-going care and management. This includes housing authorities (including halfway houses), drug and alcohol counselling, community health services and medical treatment, Centrelink payments, and parole services and the like. A bank account can be established at a branch near home if needed by the inmate.

Accordingly, the number of inmates of the new facility settling in the area following release is expected to be minimal. There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any significant increase in the number of inmates from the proposed facility who will choose to stay in the area or who will commit crimes in the area immediately upon release. It is likely that more inmates will be released from the existing minimum security section of the facility than from the proposed maximum security facility as the minimum security facility will have a higher proportion of inmates nearing the end of their sentences or serving time for minor offences.

4.4.4 Other Effects on the Community

Community consultation undertaken by JBA also identified a number of other concerns by the community with the proposed facility. Two of the main concerns raised related to the impact on traffic in the local community, the level of noise from the PA system, noise in general as well as security and light spill affecting local residents' amenity. These issues are addressed in the respective reports prepared by consultants as part of the REF.

Further to the above, feedback from the Cessnock City Council was also received as a result of the consultation undertaken by JBA. In terms of the potential social impacts, the Council noted the following:-

"The Cessnock Local Area is recognised as having a socioeconomically disadvantaged community. An influx of vulnerable families or families in crisis as a result of incarceration of a family member will further disadvantage this community".

...

"The broad and significant health, educational and social service demands that will be brought about as a result of the planned correction centre expansion requires thorough and meaningful consideration by the State Government".

As mentioned within Council's submission, this comment in regards to vulnerable families or families in crisis moving into the area is considered to be anecdotal evidence about social impacts on the community. The likelihood of families moving into the area into order to be closer to an inmate is discussed in section 4.3.1. A combination of consultation and previous research suggests that there would be low levels of families relocating to the Cessnock area.

³¹ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.17.



The potential impact on health and hospital services in address is section 4.9 of this report. In summary, the impact both in the short and long term as a result of the increase in inmates located at Cessnock has been anticipated by Justice Health whereby appropriate management of the impacts will be undertaken with the coordinated response by both NSW Justice Health and Hunter New England Area Health Service.

Potential demand on educational services is discussed in part 4.10 of this report. In summary, it is difficult to measure the potential impact on current educational services due to the unknown. It is therefore recommended that Justice NSW liaise with the Department of Education to monitor the enrolment numbers and associated resource requirements. Further to this, Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) is provided to inmates and will have no impact on the wider education providers within the community.

4.5 Stigma and Possible Flow-on Effects

4.5.1 Image

It is often a concern that the presence of a correctional centre will attach a stigma to the associated town. This is evident when referring to previous studies on prisons as well as when considering the issues raised during consultation for the expansion at the Centre in 2009. As a result of the consultation for the proposed facility expansion, the perceived social issue regarding stigma arose with comments associated with the cost and benefit of the proposal and its implication on Cessnock as a town and its reputation.

Having regard to previous studies, SEIA's prepared for correctional centres revealed the following in regards to stigma:-

- The issues of stigma and image were considered in the previous development of correctional centres at Junee (Environmetrics, 1998) and the first of two Lithgow SEIAs (BBC Consulting Planners, 1998). It was found that, in the first eight years of operation of Lithgow Correctional Centre, the presence of the centre had not adversely affected the image of Lithgow³². Both studies found that the presence of the correctional centre had not attached a stigma to the town.
- Findings from a similar study undertaken recently for the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre (BBC Consulting Planners, 2007) have revealed that, contrary to expectations of representatives across many community service sectors, the MNCCC may have led to a more positive image of the town amongst its residents, as a result of direct and indirect employment opportunities and economic development within the town³³.
- It was apparent from consultation undertaken for the most recent Lithgow Correctional Centre SEIA (BBC Consulting Planners, 2007) that some sections of the community perceived the correctional centre in Lithgow had had an effect on the image of the town through impacts such as:-

³² Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 1998, pp.23-4.

³³ Mid-North Coast Correctional Centre Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.25.



- lowering of socio-economic status of schools closest to the correctional centre and public housing precincts;
- an increase in crime (some believe through the families of inmates, others say visitors and released inmates); and
- families of inmates consuming a disproportionate amount of valuable welfare resources due to their complex needs, especially for children.

While the issue of stigma is an issue being raised throughout communities where correctional centres are proposed, findings from previous studies indicate that such perceptions did not represent the wider community view and that there is little evidence to support these perceptions³⁴.

Consultation with accommodation providers indicated that tourism in the area was strong and guests did not appear to have any concerns in relation to the presence of the facility.

Consultation with a large local real estate company indicated that the presence of the centre was not a disincentive to purchasing or renting a property within close proximity to the Centre.

Overall, previous studies and the target consultation suggest that Cessnock has not become known as a 'gaol town' and is not likely to in the future as a consequence of the proposed expansion to the facility. Further, given that the proposal is for new facilities on the site of an existing facility, there is likely to be little cumulative impact on community perceptions as a result of the proposal.

4.5.2 Impact on Tourism

Cessnock is located in the Hunter Valley, approximately 150 kilometres north of Sydney and 40 kilometres west of Newcastle. Originally a service town for travellers and farmers, the towns growth and expansion was primarily due to the establishment of mining in the region. Today, the decline in mining has been paralleled by the growth of the wine industry within the local area and the wider Hunter Valley³⁵. With approximately 4,500 acres under vine, the vineyards of Pokolbin, Mount View and Allandale form part of a thriving tourism industry³⁶.

Council's 'Cessnock 2023 Community Strategic Plan' provides an overview of the towns economic growth and success which, while heavily reliant on the tourism and the wine industry of the region, the document recognises the growth in light and secondary industry which has been a feature of the City's recent economic growth³⁷. In terms of tourist visitation and expenditure, for the period of September 2008 – September 2001 there were 755,000 visitors with a total spend of \$157 million in the Cessnock LGA. This is compared to 73,759,000 visitors to NSW with a total spend of \$23,592 million³⁸.

³⁴ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.19.

³⁵ Cessnock City Council (2013), Cessnock 2023 Community Strategic Plan, pg 5

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Cessnock City Council (2013), Cessnock 2023 Community Strategic Plan, Community Profile, pg 13-14

Previous research has found that the existence of correctional centres has not affected local tourism and is not considered an impediment to successful tourism within an area. The proposed facility expansion is considered to result in an increase in the number of visitors to the centre. The centre experiences approximately 3,240 visits to inmates per month which is expected to rise in proportion with the centre's expansion. This is expected to have a positive effect with an increase in expenditure within the local area. Such benefits are expected to be felt by local business within Cessnock.

Table 10 below provides an indication of the number of visitors to the Cessnock area, the neighbouring suburb of Singleton and the greater Hunter Region for 2014. 38% of visitors to Cessnock are domestic overnight visitors with 60% involving domestic day trips. The total number of visitors to Cessnock is significantly higher than that of the neighbouring suburb of Singleton.

Table 10: Tourism Visitation Numbers by LGA – 2014 Profile

Type of Visit	Cessnock	Singleton	Hunter Region
	('000)	('000)	('000)
International	10	5	162
Domestic Overnight	386	143	3,084
Domestic Day Trips	616	243	6,153
Total	1,012	391	9,399

Source: Tourism Research Australia 2014

* Note: Tourism Research Australia advises that data is based on a small sample size and may not be statistically accurate.

There is no evidence to suggest that the correctional centre has or will deter people from visiting Cessnock. Correctional centre visitors, both inmate relatives and professionals, have a positive economic impact on the tourism industry, particularly in regards to the accommodation sector.

4.6 Positive Community Effects

The existing CCC has proven to have many positive community impacts. These include:-

- Cessnock Correctional Centre employs more than 300 local staff. The proposed expansion to the Centre would see more jobs created, including approximately 450 during construction and 430 when complete;
- restoration and refurbishing education demountable classrooms; and
- Improved offender rehabilitation – recognition of the community responsibility to address this social issue. Inmates in NSW prisons have the opportunity to produce various forms of artwork. Inmates then have the opportunity to sell their work should they wish to.

There are a number of further benefits to expanding custodial services in Cessnock. Primary benefits include an increase in income generated by the consumption of local services and resources by the staff and inmates at the centre, as well as the economic benefits associated with the construction of the new facility.

Given that the proposed facility involves maximum security inmates, the proposal is limited in the manner in which inmates can provide benefits to the community. However, it is noted that



the centre currently provides, and will continue to provide a number of indirect community contributions through employment opportunities for the existing minimum security inmates, such as through the demountable refurbishment program.

As a result of the consultation undertaken by JBA with key stakeholders, feedback on the proposal was provided by the Cessnock City Council whom recognised the employment opportunities that will be provided by the centre both during construction and general management of the facility once it is operation. This positive impact on the economy is discussed further in section 5.2 of this report.

4.7 Effect on Accommodation and Housing

4.7.1 Visitor Accommodation

Current information from the centre indicates that on average, CCC has approximately 3,240 visits to inmates per month. This results in a rate of 3.6 visits per 1 inmate currently detained at the centre. Given the proximity to Sydney (approx. 160 kilometres) and Newcastle (approx. 40 kilometres), some of these will be one-day visits and will not require overnight accommodation. Some visitors to existing inmates require overnight accommodation for a range of reasons and make use of the available supply of accommodation for the travelling public. This will continue to be the case for visitors of those inmates housed in the new maximum security correctional centre in Cessnock.

There is a range of tourist and short-term accommodation available in and within close proximity to Cessnock:-

- **Motels and Hotels** – There are a number of Hotels and Motels within the vicinity of the site and within the centre of Cessnock which are available for visitors to Cessnock. These facilities range in price from \$60-\$160.
- **Caravan Parks** – There are two caravan parks located within Cessnock. ‘Big 4 Hunter Valley’ is located approximately 2km south of the CCC while ‘Cessnock Wine Country’ is located approximately 800m north-east of the correctional centre. Both caravan parks are operated by Active Holidays which offer camping facilities including cabins at \$100 per night and powered camping sites at \$35 per night.

Destination NSW provides an overview of tourism accommodation within the Cessnock LGA (Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 rooms or more). In the June 2015 quarter, there were a total of 26 accommodation establishments which is a 19.24% increase when compared to June 2014 where there were only 21 establishments. In terms of supply, the report determines that there was a supply of 1,499 rooms, with a room rate occupancy of 53.6%³⁹. The data suggests that accommodation within the Cessnock area is at a premium. This is most likely due to tourism associated with the wine industry.

The Traveller’s Rest Motel in Cessnock has 17 rooms available, with prices ranging from \$80 to \$130. The manager indicated that the accommodation within the area is very sessional and typically runs at capacity during events and concerts. During other periods of the year, the

³⁹Destinations NSW (2016), Local Government Area (LGA) Profiles (2015) www.destinationnsw.com.au

manager indicated that the Motel runs at 50% capacity. In terms of identifying guests visiting the correctional centre, the Manager indicated that some guests have mentioned that they were visiting inmates at the Correctional Centre, however it was difficult to indicate a proportion of guests as most just book accommodation for one night.

Hunter Valley YHA located north east of the Correctional Centre, provides affordable overnight accommodation. The hostel can accommodate up to 48 people with rates that range from \$70 for 2 nights' (minimum stay) in a multi-share dorm. The manager of the facility indicated that the accommodation provided at the hostel would not typically run at full capacity. While their busiest times are during the weekends, the accommodation is seasonal in accordance with the tourism industry. The manager indicated that they get very few people staying in the Hostel with the purpose to visit someone at the correction centre due to the price of the hostel. The manager indicated that he had had approximately two people that have stayed at the hostel for this reason in the past five years. Of these few guest that have stayed when visiting the correctional centre, the manager indicated that there had been no issues.

4.7.2 Public and Community Housing

In June 2014, the Cessnock LGA had a lower than average proportion of public housing stock, comprising 1.8% of all housing stock, compared to Newcastle (10.7%), Lake Macquarie (9%) and NSW (71.1%)⁴⁰. There are approximately 667 public housing dwellings located in the Cessnock LGA as provided in **Table 11** below. There is also a number of public housing dwellings in surrounding LGA's, including Singleton (392), Maitland (1,387), Newcastle (3,925) and Lake Macquarie (3,277)⁴¹.

Table 11: Public Housing Stock – June 2014

Area	Public Housing Stock – June 2014
Cessnock	667
Dungog	26
Lake Macquarie	3,277
Maitland	1,387
Muswellbrook	23
Newcastle	3,925
Port Stephens	817
Singleton	392
Upper Hunter Shire	0
NSW	36,388

Source: The Department of Housing NSW, Housing Market Snapshot - Hunter Sub Region

The Department of Housing have released updated figures for potential waiting times for social housing across NSW. **Table 12** below provides an overview of waiting times for public housing in the Hunter Region 'Allocation Zone' of Cessnock and surrounding LGA areas for comparison.

Table 12: Comparative Public Housing Waiting Times (all dwelling types) 2015

Allocation Zone	Bedroom Entitlement			
	1	2	3	4

⁴⁰The Department of Housing NSW, www.housing.nsw.gov.au/centre-for-affordable-housing/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/333534/HunterRegion_Supply.pdf

⁴¹ Ibid.



Cessnock	5-10yrs	10+yrs	10+yrs	5-10yrs
Singleton	2-5yrs	2-5yrs	2-5yrs	2-5yrs
Aberdeen	No properties	5-10yrs	Up to 2 years	5-10yrs
Newcastle	2-5yrs	10+yrs	5-10yrs	5-10yrs
Lake Macquarie	10+yrs	10+yrs	10+yrs	5-10yrs

Source: Housing Pathways NSW 2015

There are approximately 1,020 very low income households in rental stress in Cessnock. Cessnock has a total of 83% of very low income households in rental stress which is comparative to the rental market in the greater NSW which is at 87%. The predominance of low income households across most of the Hunter LGA's indicates that the demand for affordable housing in the region is likely to be very strong, which is evident in the current waiting periods for public housing across the region. Statistics suggest that between 1990 and 2013, medium rents in all Hunter region continued to rise which has resulted in the reduction in the proportion of rental housing that is affordable for lower income households.

Consultation with Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre indicated that as a result of the previous expansion at Cessnock Prison, Samaritans experienced a 'spike' in the number of people seeking assistance with public housing as a result of families moving to the area to be close to inmates.⁴² As mentioned previously, Samaritans provide emergency housing and assistance to youth only. Any requests from families of inmates moving into the area are referred to the Department of Housing Maitland Office.

The Department of Housing advised that they receive few enquiries or requests from families wishing to relocate closer to correctional centres. The Department of Housing also indicated that such requests are not high priority and that instances where children are at risk, or families of indigenous decent are seeking to transfer to be closer to an inmate take priority. It should be noted that inmates' families seeking public and community housing do not always identify themselves as having a relative in a correctional centre, thus limiting the ability to measure the full impact of a correctional centre on public and community housing and other local services.

The Department of Housing also recognises the need to provide registered persons with the same access to affordable housing. This is strategic direction provided through the Departments 'Social Housing Assistance Policy for Registered Persons' where access to affordable housing is seen as a means to assist in reducing re-offending⁴³. Registered Persons who are assessed as being eligible for social housing assistance may access the full range of housing products and services available including private rental assistance, temporary accommodation and private rental subsidy assistance.

Compass Community Housing (CCH), a non-government social housing provider, manage a total of 70 properties within the Cessnock LGA. These properties are designed to assist in the placement of applicants already on the waiting list, rather than accommodating any demand which may occur as a result of the proposed correctional facility. Of the social housing managed within the Cessnock LGA, CCH confirmed that demand is high, with there being waiting lists for all types of properties currently managed by the organisation. Currently, there is a total of 187 people waiting for a 1-bedroom dwelling and 280 people for a 2-bedroom

⁴² Samaritans (27/07/2016), www.samaritans.org.au/cms/proposal-to-expand-cessnock-gaol-good-or-bad/

⁴³ The Department of Housing NSW (26/07/2016), <http://www.housingpathways.nsw.gov.au/additional-information/policies/social-housing-assistance-policy-for-registered-persons>

dwelling. To accommodate demand, CCH has tendered to build new properties within the region under the Social and Affordable Housing Fund. This will provide for 90 new dwellings within the Cessnock LGA by 2018. Of the social housing provided within the LGA, CCH are not aware of families of inmates moving to be closer to the correctional centre.⁴⁴

It is considered unlikely that the proposed facility would impact the availability or nature of public housing in the LGA. The Department of Housing has described correctional centres as having “no to minimal impact” on their services. Consultation suggests that the impact on the nature of estates is indiscernible.

4.8 Effect on Public Transport

As a result of the proposed expansion, it is expected that the majority of visitors to the Correctional Centre will arrive by private motor vehicle, with others arriving by train or bus. This is consistent with the findings from the previous SEIA (2009).

There are two bus stops located within the vicinity of the centre. One being located outside the maximum security entrance to the correctional centre, just south of the visitor carpark and the other being located on Lindsey Street, just east of the correctional centre, outside the maximum security entrance. Both stations area serviced by a numbers of buses that provide a direct connection to the Cessnock’s town centre and beyond.

Public transport services which can be used to travel to Cessnock include:-

- The Community Restorative Centre (CRC) provides for low cost travel assistance when planning a visit to an inmate in a NSW correctional centre. The service is provided to relatives and family members that live a significant distance from the centre (over 100km) and includes the likes of a train or bus fare or, assistance with fuel costs. Such assistance can only be provided for 1 visit every 12 weeks for each person and is subject to the applicant meeting the eligibility criteria⁴⁵.

Transport NSW operates the following bus services:-

- Route 160 provides a direct service to CCC on Saturdays, departing Newcastle East at 8.15am, arriving at CCC at 9.45am. The return service from CCC departs 3.30pm, arriving at Newcastle East at 5.10pm;
- Routes 163 and 164 provide a direct service to CCC on Saturdays and Sundays. Route 163 departs Maitland at 8.05am, arriving at CCC at 9.15am which route 164 departs Maitland at 8.45am, arriving at Cessnock at 9.45am The return service sees both routes depart CCC at 3.30pm, arriving at Maitland at 6.05pm and 4.40pm respectively.

Cessnock Radio Cabs provide daily taxi services within Cessnock. The one-way fare from Vincent Street, Cessnock to the centre is approximately \$10. This may be prohibitively expensive for regular use by visitors.

⁴⁴ Pers. Comm. – Compass Community Housing, Tennant Engagement Officer, 2016

⁴⁵ Community Restorative Centre (27/07/2016),
http://www.crcnsw.org.au/images/misc/travel_and_accommodation_assistance_19012016.pdf



Costs for travel and travel-related accommodation can be provided to eligible families of inmates. This assistance is provided by the CSNSW and is assessed on an individual basis by the Manager Offender Services & Programs. The assistance may be available in instances where the applicant is a resident of NSW, on a Centrelink benefit, is visiting an immediate family member serving a sentence of 6 months or longer, and is travelling a long distance. Costs for petrol, public transport and overnight accommodation can be reimbursed. Applications need to be submitted 30 days prior to the intended travel date⁴⁶.

The limited public transport options currently available within Cessnock suggests that persons visiting the correctional centre are likely to make their own ways to the centre. This is consistent with the findings from previous correctional centre visitor surveys which identified that whilst public transport services (both bus and train) are available, a high proportion of visitors to correctional centres are likely to travel to the centres by private motor vehicle. Surveys undertaken for Lithgow Correctional Centre found that 85% of visitors to the Centre arrived by private motor vehicle, with only approximately 12% of visitors arriving by train, despite a well serviced train station being located only 7 kilometres away in the Lithgow town centre and connecting bus services to the centre operating on visiting days⁴⁷.

Visitors to the correctional centre can expect to complete their visit within two hours of arriving at the centre. However, visitors relying on public transport have several hours to wait until the return trips, which arrives at 9:15 and 9:45am and departs at 3:30pm. Visitors are unable to remain inside the correctional centre after their visit and there are no facilities in which to wait at the existing correctional centre. As a result, it is understood that some visitors either catch a cab or walk back to the Cessnock township to get a connecting service from the terminus or to pass the time until their return connection in the afternoon.

Having regard to existing transport options and the findings from previous studies, it is expected that the proposed facility expansion will not have a significant additional impact on existing transport services, primarily due to the limited number of direct transport services to the Centre but also due to previous research which indicates that majority of visitors travel by private motor vehicle. While the proposed facility expansion may provide some increase in patronage of existing services, such services (primarily bus operators) are considered to have capacity to cater for the expected increase in visitation to the centre.

The issue of the need for short-term accommodation (visitor and emergency) is often tied to the availability of public transport. The availability of transport back to larger centres which act as transport hubs (e.g. Newcastle and Morisset) is likely to reduce the demand from inmates' visitors for overnight accommodation in Cessnock. However, eligibility for travel and travel related accommodation through the Community Restorative Centre is available for those that live further than 100km from the correctional centre provided that the inmate is a relative of the visitor. This in turn, avoiding the need to travel from Sydney to Cessnock, via Newcastle/ Maitland which is considered to reduce the demand for emergency housing within the area.

⁴⁶The Department of Corrective Service (2015), Operations Procedures Manual, Section 7.18 Financial Assistance for Inmates Families.

⁴⁷ Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.24.



While it is impossible to predict with any certainty the potential additional impact on existing services, it is recommended that the Cessnock Correction Centre monitor visitor numbers and liaise with Transport NSW to discuss the potential for an increase in the frequency of bus services to the centre in order to cater the expected increase of visitors to the centre.

It is also recommended that the establishment of a courtesy bus service on weekends and public holidays between the town centre and the Cessnock Correctional Centre be investigated by the Department of Justice. Such a service would best be undertaken in partnership with a local bus company or another service provider. Such a system successfully operates at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre (MNCCC). MNCCC management have indicated that approximately 20% of all visitors arrive in this manner each weekend. Discussions with local social service providers have indicated that this has had a positive effect of reducing the potential negative impacts of visitors to the MNCCC and boosting inmate morale.

4.9 Effects on Crime and Policing Services

It is a commonly held fear that the introduction of a correctional facility to an established community will lead to increased crime in the area, committed by prison escapees, families of inmates or by visitors to the centre or inmates choosing to remain in the area upon release.

Analysis of crime trend data (detailed below) since the opening of the 250 bed maximum security addition at the centre in 2012 reveals there has been little impact on crime rates in the surrounding area, with the majority of incidents showing downward trends (July 2011 – June 2016). Whilst incidents of drug offences have increased in Cessnock the increase does not appear to be directly attributed to the opening of the 250 bed maximum security addition in 2012 as these trend are consistent with that of the state of NSW and the Cessnock LGA.

Looking at the current NSW crime trends for the suburbs surrounding the site it can be seen that the area is not considered to be an area containing a significant number of incidents of:-

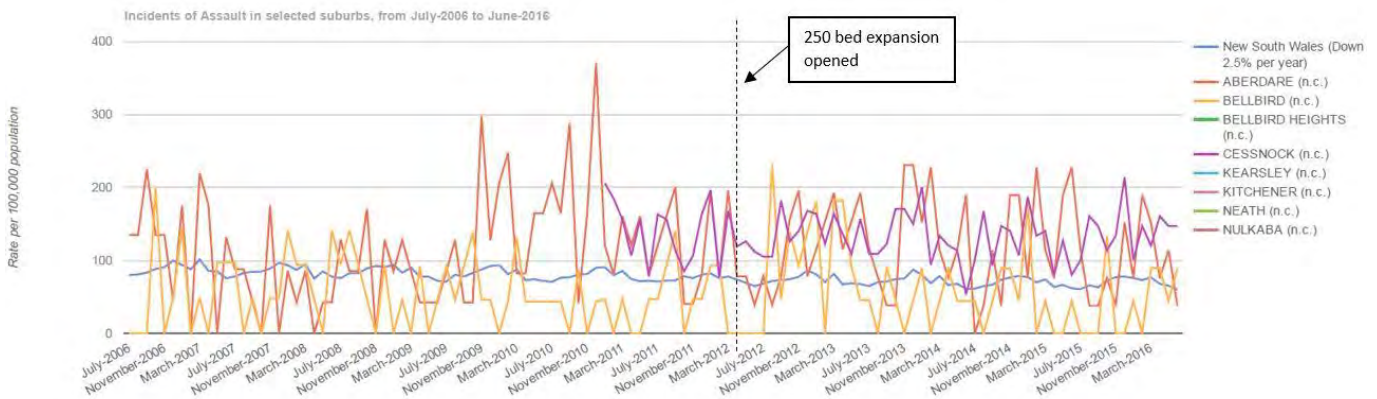
- Malicious damage to property have gone down 11.3% per year in the Cessnock suburb (between July 2011 and June 2016) as well as the Aberdare recording a downward trend of 17.9% per year between July 2011 and June 2016.
- Incidents of assault have remained stable in Cessnock, Aberdare and Bellbird.
- Incidents of theft have remained stable Cessnock, Aberdare and Bellbird.
- Incidents of sexual offence have remained stable in Cessnock and the Cessnock LGA.
- Incidents of drug offences have gone up 12.4% per year within the Cessnock suburb over the last 5 years (July 2011 and June 2016).
- Incidents of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisances have remained stable within the Cessnock suburb over the last 5 years (July 2011 and June 2016).

It is noted that due to the small number of incidents recorded and small populations some incident rates have not been calculated for each suburb. The lack of trend reported reflects the non-calculation rate provided by the Bureau.

As can be seen from the graphs below, there is no significant increase in incidents of crime following the opening of the 250 bed maximum security addition in 2012. Consultation with the

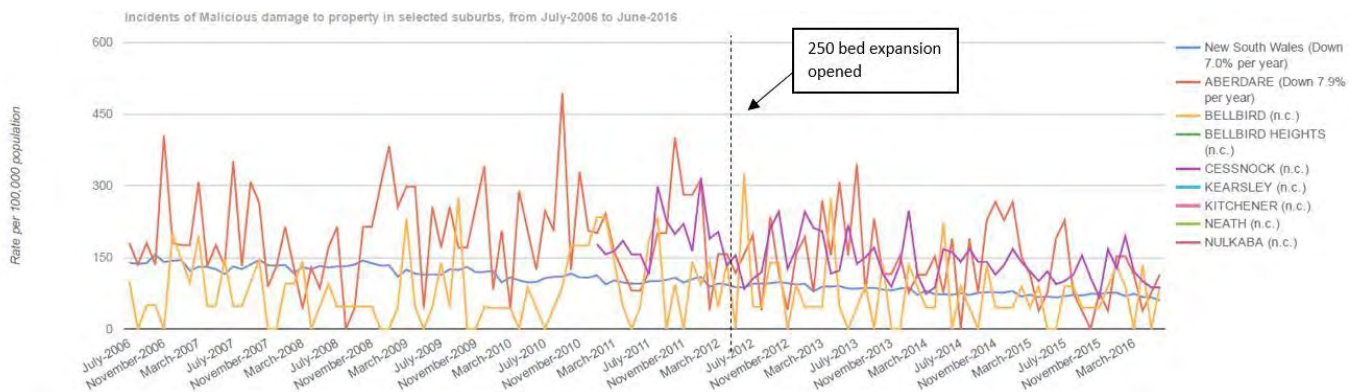
Cessnock Police confirmed that they did not experience any additional demand for services as a result of the 2009 expansion at CCC and do not anticipate this to occur as a result of the proposed development. Accordingly, the Local Area Command expects current policing resources to be sufficient to cater for the proposed expansion.

Incidents of Assault in selected suburbs, from July 2006 to June 2016



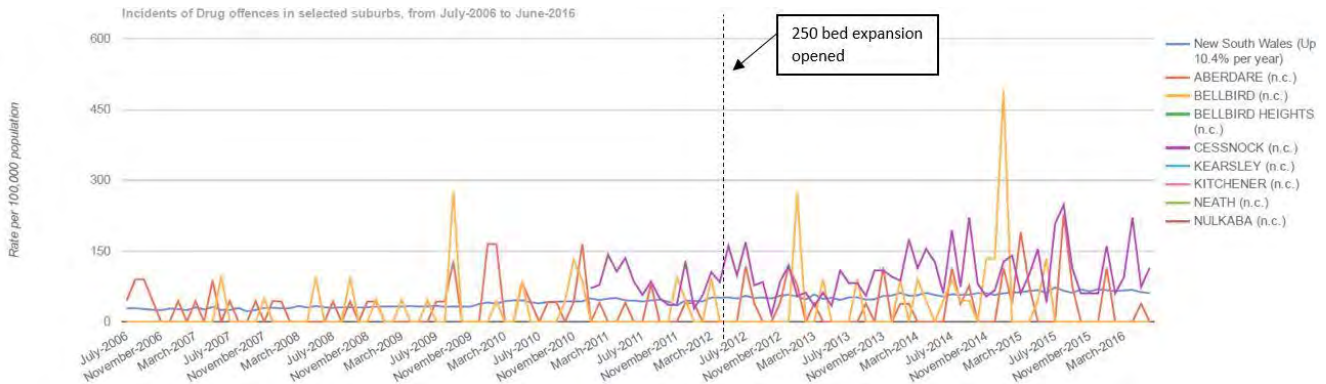
Notes: Trend graph sourced from Bureau of Statistics Crime and Research (BOSCAR) Accessed on September 2016

Incidents of Malicious damage to property in selected suburbs, from July 2006 to June 2016



Notes: Trend graph sourced from Bureau of Statistics Crime and Research (BOSCAR) Accessed on September 2016

Incidents of Drug offences in selected suburbs, from July 2006 to June 2016



Notes: Trend graph sourced from Bureau of Statistics Crime and Research (BOSCAR) Accessed on September 2016

4.9.1 Correctional Centre Trends

Previous research undertaken in Lithgow and Kempsey indicates that the presence of a correctional centre does not lead to an increase in crime.

Despite similar concerns expressed by certain sections of the Lithgow community, an analysis of crime statistics and discussions with police at the time revealed that in the six years following the opening of the correctional centre, overall crime rates had decreased by 5%. At the same time that NSW crime rate had increased by 25%⁴⁸.

Statistics provided by the Crime Management Unit of the Mid North Coast Local Area Command (LAC) and presented in the *Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre* (BBC Consulting Planners, 2007) show that the MNCCC had not contributed to an increase in crime in the Kempsey area. On the contrary there was a 17% total reduction in the eight most prevalent types of crime in the Kempsey LGA between 2003 (prior to the MNCCC opening) and 2006, two and a half years after the MNCCC commenced operation. During the same period, the overall incidence of these crimes actually increased slightly in surrounding LGAs, from between 1% to 5%. Whilst the rates of malicious damage in the LGA increased during this period, it was observed that this was reflective of an overall increase in this crime across NSW and was not specific to Kempsey.

The Intelligence Supervisor at the Mid North Coast LAC advised that there was no evidence to suggest that inmates released from the MNCCC had been committing further crimes in the area. The continued decline in the rate of motor vehicle theft and the absence of an increase in crime in Kempsey supported this conclusion.

Similar investigations into the effects of correctional centres on communities undertaken in New Zealand⁴⁹ have returned analogous findings that whilst the public may be concerned that

⁴⁸ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.25.

⁴⁹ Baine J, Morgan, B and Buckeham, B (2003) An Overview: Contemporary Host Community Experience of Prisons in New Zealand. Working Paper FS#30, pg. 27.



the presence of a correctional centre may be a source of criminal activity, case studies that were undertaken did not reveal any evidence that this occurs.

Discussions with the Superintendents in Local Area Commands (LACs) in which correctional centres have been located have indicated that, apart from the drug detection on visitors, there have otherwise been no noticeable impact of correctional centres on their local communities. In the review of Lithgow Correctional Centre, Lithgow LAC was unaware of any arrests which could be attributed to visitors to the Correctional Centre⁵⁰.

The Cessnock Police Station and the Central Hunter Local Area Command NSW have been contacted as a result of the consultation process. Overall, the police did not experience any additional demand for services as a result of the 2009 expansion at CCC and do not anticipate this to occur as a result of the proposed development. The Cessnock Local Area Command confirmed that there are no current issues with the operation of the prison and that the expansion is support as it will likely assist in the effective movement of prisoners to and from the prison.

It is difficult to establish with any certainty what impact a correctional centre has on crime in an area. However, as previously reported incidents of crime over the last 5 years have remained stable or trended downwards in the surrounding suburbs with declining incidents of assault, malicious damage, robbery and theft within the Cessnock suburb. There is no indication that there have been increased rates of crime associated with the centre. Nevertheless, there can be concerns within a community as to the potential of increase in crime. It will be important for all agencies involved to keep the community informed and to carefully monitor the situation.

4.10 Effect on Health Services

4.10.1 Effect on Hospital Services

Public hospitals are only to be used to treat inmates during emergencies. CCC is fortunate to have a visiting Doctor, and inmates are only referred to Hospital treatment for acute or emergency treatment. In non-emergency cases, inmates requiring hospital treatment are transferred to either one of the three hospitals that admit inmates for treatment including the new Lower Hunter Hospital, Maitland Hospital or John Hunter Hospital, as Cessnock Hospital appears to be a triage only hospital.

The Department of Justice advised that emergency treatment of inmates varies from month to month. Some months it can be quite high, but this is mostly for X-Rays or other allied health services, as referred by the Doctor. Cessnock has had in the order of 450 escorts to hospital for treatment from between 1/7/2015 to 30/6/2016.⁵¹ This results in less than two inmates per day requiring hospital treatment which is considered to pose a limited to negligible impact on the daily running of the hospital or local health services in general. All inmates attending Hospitals locally do so under escort of a Correctional Officer in a Departmental vehicle. There are currently no safe assessment rooms or transit lounges available within the Lower Hunter

⁵⁰ Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.25.

⁵¹ Pers. Comm. – Department of Correctional Services, General Manager Custodial Infrastructure, July 2016



Hospital, Maitland Hospital or John Hunter Hospital resulting in patients being managed through guard supervision.

In accordance with the new facilities on site additional health resources will also be provided including additional staff which will cater to inmate health needs. Existing staffing for medical services include approximately 14. This number will increase to 24 as part of the proposed new correctional facilities.

In terms of safety, clear protocols have been established by senior hospital staff and the CSNSW relating to the admission and management of maximum security inmates to minimise any risks to staff and the public. Inmates requiring treatment or admission at a local hospital will be guarded by CSNSW staff. In accordance with the new facilities, additional resourcing will include the provision of a medical escort unit on site that will be responsible for escorting scheduled medical treatment and performing hospital guard duties at the three Hospitals that admit inmates for treatment.

As a result of the expansion of CCC, there will be an increase in demand for health services at the correctional centre as well as within the local hospitals. There are also implications of additional health service requirements for inmates upon release for their continued ongoing healthcare program which is likely to place additional needs on the Hunter Region Health Service providers.

The potential impact has been anticipated by NSW Justice Health and whilst the details with respect to the projected increase in number of inmates requiring medical treatment at the Cessnock Hospital is unknown at this stage, appropriate management of the impacts will be undertaken with the coordinated response by both NSW Justice Health and Hunter New England Area Health Service. Any short term impacts as a result of the increase are likely to be addressed and managed through the development of a health reference group, established for the Hunter New England Local Health District health services.

Longer term impacts of the proposal can be planned for with the possibility of establishing new safe assessment rooms and transit lounges for inmates as well as the consideration of building a secure unit for inmates at the hospital to ensure inmates are treated efficiently in a safe and secure environment.

In addition to the consideration of treatment of inmates there is a need to engage in open dialogue with Aboriginal Medical Services in the area to ensure that ongoing treatment of inmates and individuals recently released from the Centre receive effective ongoing treatments in accordance with any treatment plans established whilst they are located at the Centre.

To assist with the increase in number of people seeking ongoing treatment within the Hunter New England Area Health Service District upon release it is considered appropriate to maintain dialog between Justice Health and the Health District to ensure inmates, upon release, receive appropriate follow up treatment where required and continue with their integrated health care system that is established by Justice Health whilst receiving treatment as an inmate.

4.10.2 Effect on Drug and Alcohol Services

Impacts on drug and alcohol services could be experienced in several potential ways:-

- Increased demand from inmates requiring treatment;



- Increases to the supply of drugs to the local community. This is addressed in Section 4.8; and
- Inmates with drug or alcohol problems remaining in Cessnock upon their release. This is addressed in Section 4.3.3.

NSW offender population is randomly tested for drugs. They can also be target tested. Each month correctional centres are locked down for a complete search and/or random searches are carried out of cells and common areas on a regular basis.

The Correctional Centre has drug and alcohol workers who run a number of programs to help offenders manage addiction. All drug and alcohol services for inmates of the existing and proposed facility are provided by the CSNSW and Justice Health. There will be no need to rely on external drug and alcohol services. However, it is understood that the CCC will hold discussions with the relevant alcohol and drug service providers in the area to establish co-operative approaches to managing the drug and alcohol issues of inmates, both pre-and post-release.

4.10.3 Effect on Community Health Services

Concerns were raised by a number of stakeholders and community members that the additions to the correctional centre would result in an increased demand for welfare and charitable services from visitors and families of inmates relocating to the area. However, anecdotal evidence presented below indicates that the existing CCC has minimal impact on the delivery of these services in the Cessnock area.

A broad range of charitable, welfare and community services are available in Cessnock and surrounding areas, such as Kurri Kurri. A complete list of agencies contacted during the preparation of this report is contained in **Appendix 2**. Key services available in the area, some of whom offer emergency relief include:-

- “Shine For Kids” which has a centre located on-site at the existing correctional centre, provides support for families and children of inmates;
- The Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and the Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre provide charitable assistance in Cessnock and surrounding townships. Support includes emergency relief in the form of food, grocery vouchers and financial assistance such as payments towards utility bills;
- The Cessnock Family Support Service offers personal support, counselling and education for families at risk. It offers both one-to-one work with individual families and group activities;
- The Community Restorative Centre’s (CRC) Hunter office provides support and information to pre and post-release inmates and their families, including emergency relief and assistance with transport and accommodation assistance to visit inmates (in the form of subsidised individual transport and accommodation). The Hunter office of the CRC also assists families whom have a partner or family member held at Cessnock;



- The largely self-funded PCYC provides social, cultural and sporting activities (most of which are afternoon and evening based) for those in the Cessnock community aged 5 to 25 years.

Consultation has revealed the difficulty for service providers to accurately determine if clients have a connection with the correctional centre. However, based on anecdotal information available, it appears that the existing CCC does not place significant demand on welfare and charitable services in the area. In addition to this, previous research during the Post-Occupancy Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in Kempsey suggests that most of the existing community organisations had anticipated a noticeable to significant impact on their services; however, most advised that there has in fact been little to no impact from the correctional centre to date.

The new facilities at CCC may have an impact on some local service providers and welfare agencies to varying degrees. It is recommended that CSNSW continue to engage with relevant stakeholders through the Community Consultative Committee during the construction and operation phases to ensure any impacts that arise from the proposed additions are managed and mitigated.

4.11 Effect on Education and Childcare Services

The area of Cessnock currently has four pre-school/child care centres, four primary schools and two high schools (with a further two high schools in the surrounding areas). The Cessnock campus of the Hunter Institute of TAFE provides tertiary and technical training, whilst Newcastle University is located approximately 40km away.

The proposed facility expansion will result in new permanent jobs in the area with some positions filled by staff recruited from outside the Cessnock LGA. This could result in additional children relocating to the area.

The impact of the proposed facility on each type of educational facility is discussed below.

4.11.1 Effect on Childcare Services

There are four pre-school/childcare centres located in Cessnock that provide care for children primarily aged 0-5 years.

In terms of demand and availability within the existing pre-school facilities in Cessnock, facilities such as Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre, Cessnock Occasional Care and Nulkaba Pre-school are currently running at capacity with waiting lists in place for all services provided apart from after school care which is available for children aged 0-12yrs. All three child-care facilities are run and operated under the same management of Cessnock Children's Centre.

A representative from the centre indicated that that they usually have "one or two" children with a parent incarcerated at CCC, however it was not known if these families already resided in the local area prior to family member's incarceration. The centre did note that there are children currently enrolled within the program that have family members/prison officers currently working within the correctional centre.

Similarly, consultation with Good Start Early Learning indicated that the facility also runs at full capacity. The centre indicated that the current number of children enrolled at the childcare centre does fluctuate as a result of families dealing with financial strain or hardship. The centre indicated that this is a reflection of the amount of social housing within this area of Cessnock. The centre described there being quite a few children enrolled within the centre that have parents currently imprisoned at CCC with few that have family working as staff in the centre.

Overall, it is expected that there will be a relatively small number of inmate's families migrating to the area which is expected to result in minimal impacts on childcare services within the area. As mentioned in Section 2.4 of this report, it is expected that the centre will require an addition of 430 staff on site as part of the expansion. It is therefore difficult to assess the impact addition staff with families will have on childcare services in the area as the number of staff expected to move into the suburb of Cessnock is unknown. It is therefore recommended that CSNSW liaise with the Department of Education to monitor the enrolment numbers and associated resource requirements to ensure any impacts that arise are managed and mitigated.

4.11.2 Effect on Schools

There are currently six primary and three secondary schools, both public and private, in Cessnock, Bellbird, Kurri Kurri and Nulkaba. A private school providing education for Kindergarten to Year 12 is also located within Cessnock. There are at least two non-government schools located in Cessnock, supplemented by a number of smaller independent private schools in surrounding townships.

Due to the extended period in which CCC has operated it is not possible to discern any impact on school enrolments as a result of the existing centre. According to NSW Department of Education and Training data (see **Table 13** below) enrolments at public primary schools and high schools in Cessnock have seen some schools' enrolment decrease (Cessnock high School, Cessnock Public School and Cessnock West Public School) from between -11% and -24.4% between 2004-2013 while enrolments at Cessnock East Public School and Mount View High school saw small increase in enrolment by +5.1% and +3.8% respectively.

Table 13: Trends in Enrolments in Government Schools in Cessnock, 2004-2013

School	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	%-/+
Cessnock East Public School	205	188	195	186	183	184	178	200	207	216	+5.1%
Cessnock high School	621	606	593	627	591	577	567	573	565	553	-11%
Cessnock Public School	406	380	357	357	354	346	324	326	317	307	-24.4%
Cessnock West Public School	416	408	388	378	371	350	349	360	360	357	-14.2%



Mount View High School	982	1005	1011	1067	1069	1036	1055	1029	1017	1020	+3.8%
-------------------------------	-----	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

Source: NSW Department of Education, Enrolments (head count) School Level 2004 to 2013

Six schools were contacted during the consultation process of which responses were received by Nulkaba Public School, Cessnock East Public School and Mount View High School. Feedback received from the schools indicates that very few to no students of inmates are enrolled at the schools within the Cessnock area. Given the number of staff employed at CCC, each school indicated that there is a small proportion of students enrolled at the schools which have a family member employed at CCC.

The additions to the Centre could result in some additional enrolments at schools within the area. Those schools whom responded during the consultation period indicated that here is current capacity to cater for new enrolments where students are within 'zone'. However, the overall impact is expected to be minimal as it is not anticipated there will be a significant number of additional students seeking enrolment in local schools as research and consultation to date suggests that there will be relatively low levels of families relocating to the Cessnock area as a result of the prison expansion. It is recommended that CSNSW liaise with the Department of Education through the Community Consultative Committee to monitor the enrolment numbers and associated resource requirements.

4.11.3 Effect on Higher Education Services

Research has shown that education while in custody can significantly increase employment opportunities and reduce the risk of re-offending following release. The Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute (AEVTI) is the registered training organisation (RTO) for the provision of education programs for inmates in NSW correctional centres.

Delivering education programs in the area for basic education, information technology, visual arts, music and horticulture and facilitation of the delivery of traineeships and vocational training and participation. Approval to participate in education programs is subject to the inmate meeting education program eligibility criteria and following assessment may be approved to participate in the following programs:-

- AEVTI Adult Basic Education Course
- AEVTI Vocational Programs
- TAFE MOU Programs
- Traineeships
- Distance Education
- Intensive Learning Centres
- Education programs that can be delivered in centres by TAFE or other Registered Training Organisations
- Education Services through external education programs or library services

Experience at other correctional centres, such as Lithgow, suggest that educational services provided to the wider community through TAFE are not compromised as a result of the services offered to Correctional Centres, as the expenses associated with offering these education programs to staff and inmates are covered under a Justice NSW budget.

Offender Services and Programs (also a section of the CSNSW) conduct a number of programs to address prisoner behaviour and provide relevant education throughout the year. These programs include the following:-

Table 14: Offender Services & Programs (2016)

Issue addressed	Course name	Hrs / Wk
Addiction Programs	EQUIPS Addiction	40 hours
	Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse – Pathways	50 Sessions /2hrs each
	IDATP Access	6-10 months / 4 sessions per week
	IDATP Throughcare	Monthly Community Activity Program and Life Skills Workshops (depending on need) are provided.
	Ngara Nura	80 sessions/1.5 to 2 hours' duration
	Sober Driver Program	9 weeks/2 hour sessions
Aggression/Violence Programs	EQUIPS Aggression	40 hours/5 modules of 4 sessions
	EQUIPS Domestic Abuse	40 hours/5 modules of 4 sessions
	Violent Offender Therapeutic Program (VOTP) – High intensity	12 months / 2-3 sessions per week
	VOTP – Maintenance & Outreach	One to one sessions
	Self-Regulation Program for Violent Offending (SRP–VO)	12-18 months
Sex Offender Programs	SOP – Preparatory Program for Sexual Offenders (PREP)	12-14 sessions / 1.5 to 2 hour
	SOP – Custody-based Intensive Treatment (CUBIT) Program	6-10 months / 3 sessions per week
	SOP – CUBIT Outreach (CORE) Moderate	6-8 months / 2 group sessions per week
	SOP – Custody-based Deniers Program	6-7 months / 2 sessions a week
	SOP – Custody-based Maintenance Program	fortnightly basis / delivered in a group format
	SOP – Self-regulation Program	12-18 months / 3 sessions per week
Wellbeing Programs	Dads and Family (Aboriginal Babiin-Miyagang) Program	5 sessions / 3hr duration
	Real Understanding of Self-Help (RUSH)	23 x 2h sessions / 2 sessions per week
	Seasons for Growth	N/A

Source: The Department of Corrective Services NSW, Offender Services & Programs, Compendium of Offender Behaviour Change Programs in New South Wales, February 2016

The opportunity for inmates to access educational programs, additional revenue paid to the region as well as increased employment opportunities for teaching personnel should create a number of positive flow-on effects for Cessnock. These benefits have been previously



recognised in other towns where correctional centres have been constructed, such as Kempsey and Lithgow.

The expenditure associated with offering these education programs to inmates at the facility will be covered under a CSNSW budget, allowing for additional TAFE staff or the increase of part-time employment opportunities, so as not to compromise existing services to the wider community.

The new facility is expected to create more employment opportunities for TAFE and possibly AEVTI staff and is unlikely to have a negative impact on the provisions of TAFE services to the existing community.

In summary, experience at other correctional centres in NSW suggest that educational services provided to the wider community through TAFE are not compromised as a result of the services offered to Correctional Centres, as the expenses associated with offering these education programs to staff and inmates are covered under a Justice NSW budget. This is consistent with the findings from the SEIA prepared for the facility expansion at the Centre in 2009.

4.12 Effect on the Indigenous Community

The major part of the Cessnock Local Government Area lies within the boundaries of the traditional land of the Wonnarua people, who are the custodians of this land. Cessnock also contains a number of Aboriginal heritage sites. In NSW correctional centres, 23.3% of male inmates and 34.7% of female inmates are of ATSI origin. The incarceration rate of indigenous offenders is thirteen times higher than for non-indigenous people⁵².

NSW inmate census data indicated that a total of 81 maximum inmates 123 minimum security inmates at Cessnock are of indigenous decent. In comparison to the rest of the state, the proportion of indigenous inmates residing at Cessnock is 8%. Compared to other correctional facilities within NSW, Cessnock has a relatively high proportion of ingenious inmates when compared to Parklea (6%), Bathurst (7.3%) and Broken Hill (1.3%).

The Department of Corrections is guided by strategic planning and support services in order to reduce the risk for re-offending for Aboriginal offenders. The Strategy for supporting Aboriginal offenders to desist from re-offending seeks to recognise social issues, cognitive and hearing impairments, listen to Aboriginal communities which contribute to achieving justice outcomes, increase opportunities for Aboriginal offenders to be diverted from custody where appropriate and understand the importance of family, kinship, community and culture. The Strategy sees the following delivery initiatives which are implemented within corrective centres state wide:-

- programs and services across custody and community which are appropriate to Aboriginal offenders taking into account their cultural and geographic backgrounds;
- education/vocational training and employment programs with a focus on community integration; and

⁵² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015. 517.0 - Prisoners in Australia, 2015, Crude Imprisonment Rate, Indigenous status by state/territory 2005-2015



- relevant cultural awareness programs for offenders taking into account local country, language, art and traditional customs

Cessnock is located in close proximity to three Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC). These include Mindaribba located in Maitland, Awabakal located in Islington and Bahabah located in Blacksmiths. These organisations provide ongoing assistance to Indigenous residents in the area. Mindaribba LALC has one Aboriginal community project officer based in Maitland, who covers Cessnock.

4.12.1 Effect on Indigenous Employment Opportunities

The construction of the new additions will provide employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the local area and will satisfy the requirements under the NSW Government Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy⁵³.

Further employment opportunities may become available during the ongoing operation of the correctional centre in Cessnock. In Cessnock, there is the potential for the Land Council to work co-operatively with management through the Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) program to maximise employment opportunities for the Indigenous community during both construction and operation of the correctional centre.

4.12.2 Effect on Demand for Indigenous Services

Aboriginal organisations consulted for previous correctional centre studies indicate that correctional centres have a significant impact on demand for their services. This has been the result of needs of both inmates and their families. Whilst inmates have required assistance, some consulted representatives indicated that it is the visitors of inmates who have required the greatest proportion of the organisation's time and effort. In Lithgow, this has been experienced in a number of regular requests for accommodation assistance whilst visiting on weekends and occasional intoxication of visitors at local hotels⁵⁴.

In accordance the previous SEIA (2009), the new facility is expected to result in a corresponding increase in Aboriginal inmates at the centre. This is likely to result in impacts on local Aboriginal community organisations and service providers. It is recommended that the Community Consultative Committee engage with local Aboriginal community organisations and service providers throughout the construction and operation of the proposed additions to ensure that additional demand for services and support appropriate to the needs of visitors, particularly with regards to accessibility and accommodation are managed and mitigated if required.

The Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre is based in Kurri Kurri, NSW but also delivers services that cover Cessnock and Maitland LGA's as well as the Dungog Shire. The Centre offers a social support group for Aboriginal Elders, younger people with challenged abilities and their

⁵³NSW Department of Finances and Services, The NSW Government Aboriginal Participation in Construction Policy, 2015, pg. 1.

⁵⁴ Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.36.



carers who reside in Cessnock or Maitland LGA and, an energy accounts payment scheme to help customers currently under financial hardship or financial crisis⁵⁵.

During consultation with the Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre, the office manager indicated that there are few community services within the Cessnock LGA that are in a position to assist the indigenous community which has resulted in there being a high demand for the services offered by the centre. Whilst emergency accommodation and public housing is not a government funded program at the centre, the manger did advise that in emergency situations, particularly when dealing with children, that short term accommodation was arranged and paid for by centre employees. In this regard, the centre indicated that they deal with a lot of referrals to the Department of Housing⁵⁶.

In terms of visitors to inmates and families moving into the area to be closer to the prison, the centre manager indicated that during the expansion at the prison in 2009, they did notice a spike in the demand for services and assistance not only with visitors to the area by families too. The centre mentioned that while they are not against the prison expansion, there are concerns surrounding that impact of more visitors and families moving into the area and the demand for emergency and public housing within the area which is perceived as being an existing community issue by the centre⁵⁷.

The Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation (BCAC) is a non-discriminatory (i.e. not tribe-specific) organisation whose membership is open to people of Indigenous origin in the area. The Corporation meets on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting the local Indigenous community, as well as provides support for Indigenous people seeking employment. The BCAC is primarily a self-funded organisation and although it relies heavily on volunteers, would find it difficult to respond to any increase in demand for assistance as a result of limited financial resources.

⁵⁵ Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre (July 2015), <http://www.barkuma.org.au/html/services.html>

⁵⁶ Pers. Comm. – Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc, Office Manager, July 2016

⁵⁷ Ibid.

5. Economic Effects

The economic impact of correctional centres is often the major positive benefit perceived by the local community. The construction and operation of prisons, can bring many millions of dollars into the local economy through direct expenditure and employment. Conversely, some sections of the community perceive that they have a negative impact on the image and economy of an area.

Employment opportunities will be provided both on and off site during the construction phase of the development. Employment on site will fluctuate during the construction program, with up to 450 workers on-site during the peak of the construction phase.

Findings of the previous SEIA (2009) indicated that the existing CCC (prior to its 2009 additions) was credited by a number of stakeholders with having made a positive contribution to the local economy. Aside from the more obvious direct economic and multiplier effects of wages and operational expenditure, the presence of a major government facility was considered likely to have increased investor confidence in Cessnock and led to other forms of investment⁵⁸.

5.1 General Employment Trends

Traditionally, pastoral and farming activities with wheat, grapes and tobacco primary crops farmed have been a key source of employment in the Cessnock area since the 1820s. Following the extensive coal surveying in the region, coal mining activities were rapidly established in the region which brought a large number of people seeking employment to Cessnock and surrounding areas in the early 1900s. Adoption of mechanised and automated operations and the general decline in mining activity have resulted in a reduction in the mining workforce. Subsequent developments in the tourism and wine industry have since provided alternative employment within the region.

According to Department of Employment (DE) small area labour markets data, the total labour force for the March 2016 quarter in the Cessnock statistical area was 10,054 and the unemployment rate was 14.5%⁵⁹. This represents a significant increase from an unemployment rate of 7.3% in 2011, and is significantly higher than NSW (5.6% in March 2016).

Key industries of employment in the Cessnock LGA in 2011 were Manufacturing (12.8%); Retail Trade (13.9%); and Accommodation and Food (14.4%). Between 2006-2011, there has been a significant change in the proportion of jobs in the primary and secondary industries within the Cessnock LGA. The percentage of change in jobs in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry declined by 13.8% while Manufacturing has declined by 10.2%. The primary percentage change in jobs within the LGA was Mining which increased by 109.1%. The percentage change in jobs within the service orientated industries saw an increase in Construction (40.1%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate (31.8%) and Arts and Recreation

⁵⁸ Cessnock Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2009, pg.68.

⁵⁹ Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets Australia March Quarter 2016, Labour Market Research and Analysis Branch Labour Market Strategy Group.



Services (46.2%)⁶⁰. In comparison, similar trends were evident in NSW where both the percentage of change in jobs between 2006-2011 in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry declined 9.8% while Manufacturing has declined by 2.6%. The primary percentage in jobs within NSW was Mining which increased by 55.3% whilst the primary change in the service orientated industries was Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services with increased by 18.7%⁶¹.

5.2 Employment Opportunities

5.2.1 Construction

Employment opportunities will be provided both on and off site during the construction phase of the development. Employment on site will fluctuate during the construction program, with up to 450 workers on-site during the peak of the construction phase.

Local contractors and subcontractors will be heavily involved in construction, and are estimated at constituting approximately 50-70% of the workforce. In addition, it is expected that a number of workers will live in Cessnock and the surrounding areas for the duration of their employment. It is proposed to hold industry information evenings aimed at providing advice to local and regional subcontractors and the Aboriginal community on how they can improve their chances for participation during the construction phase.

Data collected by the Department of Commerce in relation to the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre indicated that of all of the people inducted on site (including contractors and construction staff, client representatives, project management staff, suppliers and others), 66% resided in Kempsey and adjacent local government areas, with over half of those, or 37%, being resident in the Kempsey Shire. In Wellington, the local component increased to over 70%. Accordingly, it is recommended in part 6.2 of this report that the Department of Justice work closely with the CCC and Council's Economic Development team to help facilitate local employment opportunities.

The total construction budget for the facility is in the order of \$350 million with a proportion of this expenditure anticipated to go to local contractors and sub-contractors.

There will also be multiplier effects through the creation of indirect employment opportunities and business activities.

5.2.2 Operation

The Centre provides a stable level of employment in the LGA. The expansion will increase the number of full time positions at the Centre in areas such as custodial, industries, programs and administration positions.

In addition, it is anticipated that support services provided by Justice Health will require additional full-time staff (registered and/or enrolled nurses), and retain the services of a number of locally resident (or visiting) medical practitioners, including a dentist, psychiatrist,

⁶⁰ Australian Economic Profile (2016), <http://www.economicprofile.com.au/cessnock/trends/jobs#bar-chart>

⁶¹ Ibid, Jobs Table.



radiographer, and general practitioner. It is expected that a significant proportion of custodial and administrative staff will be sourced locally, and it is anticipated that the majority of medical staff can be recruited locally. Overall, it is anticipated that 430 new jobs will be generated by the on-going operation of the centre.

The announcement of the construction of the proposed additions at the centre is likely to have an impact on increased development activity and new businesses in addition to boosting the local property market. Findings from Lithgow have shown that the presence of the correctional centre has increased investor confidence over the past decade.

5.3 Correctional Centre Expenditure

5.3.1 Purchasing Policies

Correctional centre purchasing policies will be governed by State Government contracts and legislation. When inviting tenders, the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and other Treasury directives set guidelines which must be stringently adhered to. The movement of money for goods and services is closely monitored by the audit branch and the corruption unit.

The CCC purchasing policy is as follows:-

- State Government contracts must be used for purchasing whenever they are available;
- Purchases must be made from CSI when they are able to supply cost effective and timely products; and
- Other suppliers which have entered into a specific agreement with CSNSW must be used.

When these three procedures do not apply, purchases may be made from any supplier. Where possible, orders are placed within the local community, with some local suppliers falling under the first or third policies above.

Within these regulations there are a number of opportunities for local companies, including:-

- Ongoing and preventative maintenance contracts generated by capital works, which are generally major expenditure items. CSNSW develops these contracts on a state-wide basis, but often local companies do the work. For example, maintenance of diesel generators, freezers, air conditioning and the like.
- Direct contracts with local or regional firms for such items as inmate buy-up, meat, cleaning, waste collection, dairy, and fruit and vegetables may be arranged in circumstances where the community benefits and a competitive price is available.
- In such cases, expenditure can be made directly to local businesses without the necessity for consideration of contracts or tenders. Examples of items purchased through petty cash are plumbing supplies, mops and buckets, or sandwiches for a meeting. Any items beyond the maximum must be purchased through pre-existing contract arrangements.
- Similarly, prisoners' activity buy-up items can be purchased locally without the need for contracts.



In accordance with the recommendations from the previous SEIA assessment (2009), it is recommended that the CCC continue to work with the appointed Community Consultative Committee to ensure that local businesses are provided every opportunity to supply and service the Centre.

5.3.2 Prison Workforce Expenditure

Some new staff to be employed as part of the prison expansion will move to the LGA from outside the local area. As a result, direct household expenditure is likely to increase as a result of new household expenditure. NSW average household weekly expenditure is approximately \$1,239 (average) per week based on ABS household expenditure surveys (2009-2010). Additional household income from new jobs will contribute to the local economy.

It must be noted that not all of this will be spent in Cessnock. However, it gives an indication of the spending potential of the workers associated with the CCC.

Another source of expenditure to consider is non-resident employees. At lunch time, or before returning home, employees may undertake such activities as shopping, having their car serviced, and so on in Cessnock.

5.3.3 Visitor Expenditure

Visitors to the CCC spend money on accommodation, meals, local transport including taxis, and possibly some visitor attractions. However, the proportion of visitors requiring overnight accommodation will be dependent on the origin of inmates. Similar types of expenditure are likely to be incurred by legal representatives, visiting professional staff, and out of town suppliers on visits to the prison.

Findings from a post-occupancy visitor survey at the MNCCC found that the potential inflow of visitor expenditure was however relatively small.

5.4 Multiplier Effect

In addition to the direct economic effects of the CCC on the local economy, all expenditure also creates a flow-on or multiplier effect.

An Input-Output Analysis of Lithgow Correctional Centre was prepared by Matthew Doyle of the University of Sydney in 1996. Mr Doyle's analysis⁶² examined expenditure to firms in the Lithgow region. Wages and employment impacts were also considered. Type II consumption multipliers were estimated as follows:

Output Multiplier (Multiplier on local expenditure)	1.34
Income Multiplier (Multiplier on local incomes)	1.38
Employment Multiplier (Multiplier on no. of employees)	1.44

⁶²Matthew Doyle (1996) "The Regional Economics of NSW Prisons: An input-output analysis of Lithgow Correctional Centre", Sydney University (unpublished).

No more recent work of this kind has been undertaken and as such it will be assumed that similar multipliers would still be expected to apply.

It is expected that the economic impact of the CCC will multiply through the economy and reinforce the positive economic impact of CCC on the local economy.

5.5 Impact on Property and Land Values

There can be concerns within communities that property and land values will be negatively impacted by the expansion of a correctional centre. Findings from a 2007 post-occupancy evaluation of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, which had been in operation for three years at the time, were broadly positive. None of the real estate agents consulted could recall any prospective tenants or buyers raising concerns about the proximity of their property, either current or prospective, to the Correctional Centre. On the contrary, anecdotal evidence from real estate agents indicated that the Correctional Centre may have contributed to the increased level of interest in the property market, possibly due to demand from staff. Overall, the findings of the evaluation study were that it was unlikely that the presence of a Correctional Centre has a negative impact on property values in the nearby area.

Trends in housing price indicate an increase in median sales price for all dwellings over the last 3 years with the Cessnock LGA (2012 median: \$270,000 and 2015 median: \$312,000), with an annual increase of 2.0 recorded in December 2015.

Table 15: Median Sale Prices – all dwellings for Cessnock LGA

Year	Median \$'000s	Change in Median	
		Qtly %	Annual %
December 2015	312	4.0	2.0
September 2012	270	1.7	2.7

Data sourced from NSW Department Housing, Rental and Sales Reports, accessed August 2016.

The presence of the centre does not appear to have impacted on property prices within Cessnock with median property prices showing an upward trend since the establishment of the Centre⁶³.

Having regard to the above, property trends have shown that the presence of the established Centre has not deterred or impacted on redevelopment of the residential areas surrounding the site. Indeed, property prices within the surrounding suburbs have continued to increase over time following similar trends to that for the Greater Metropolitan Region.

Findings from a 2007 post-occupancy evaluation of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, which had been in operation for three years at the time, were broadly positive. None of the real estate agents consulted could recall any prospective tenants or buyers raising concerns about the proximity of their property, either current or prospective, to the Correctional Centre. Similarly, such findings are consistent with the feedback from local real estate agents during targeted consultation for this study. This is also the case for previous studies at Lithgow and

⁶³ Realestate.com.au, 2016, Median Property Price for Cessnock, Annual trend 2009-2015.



June which showed that property prices were not negatively affected by the presence of a correctional centre in each of these towns.

6. Summary of Findings and Recommendations

6.1 Summary

The Department of Justice is proposing to enlarge the CCC to cater for an increase in both maximum and minimum security inmates, creating an additional 320 maximum security beds; an additional 280 minimum security bed facility and a new Rapid Build Prison Centre that will create an additional 400 maximum security beds.

Findings from this assessment reveals that the Cessnock suburb was home to 13,673 people, accounting for 26.8% of the LGA population (of 50,840). Population projections predict that the Cessnock LGA population will continue to grow in accordance with the predicted population growth rate of NSW as a whole. The area is relatively disadvantage with generally low rates of crime. Separate dwellings tend to dominate the nearby housing market with properties showing significant increases in value over the last 6 years indicating that the presence of the centre hasn't deterred development within the surrounding suburbs.

Previous studies of Correctional Centres in NSW indicate that there can be ongoing concerns with regards to perceived issues with local correctional centres. These include concerns of:-

- Increased crime and anti-social behaviour in the community as a result of families and visitors of inmates;
- Increasing numbers of families of inmates moving to the area;
- Inmates remaining in local areas after their release;
- Increased demand for social and welfare services; and
- Damage to the image of the local town.

Despite these concerns it has been found that service and welfare providers do not perceive these issues to be valid in most cases.

Whilst some responses were received in relation to this proposal, overall there were few concerns expressed by the local community in relation to safety and security with visual and noise impacts being the most common issue for clarification and response.

Overall, it is expected that, following the development of the proposed additions:-

- the incidence of families moving to the Cessnock area will remain low;
- the likelihood of released inmates (not previously residents of the Cessnock LGA) remaining in the area will not increase;
- there will be no negative effect on the image of the local suburb, in fact it is likely to have a positive impact through increased social and economic opportunities;
- there will be a small impact on increased demand for services such as educational, health and social services, however these can be managed through Centre management maintaining open lines of communication with the relevant agencies; and
- potential exists for improved benefits for the Indigenous community, such as the maintenance of social networks, employment and training opportunities.



The social benefits of the proposed facility include:-

- potential support for local charities through inmate work projects and additional staff fundraising;
- additional employment for local residents;
- increased economic benefits to the Cessnock community; and
- expansion of a stable industry;

The economic impact of the proposed facility will be important and positive, providing secure local employment and additional annual local expenditure. The economic benefits during construction will also be significant. Aside from these direct benefits and the associated multiplier of flow-on effects in support industries, the continued presence of a major stable government employer will carry on supporting investor confidence.

6.2 Recommendations

The following actions are recommended in relation to;

Minimising the potential negative social impacts, particularly in relation to housing and community facility and welfare needs related to the correctional centre as well as;

Enhancement of the positive economic and social impacts of the centre.

6.2.1 Minimise Potential Negative Impacts

(1) Impacts on safety and security.

- The Community Consultative Committee shall update the Emergency Management Plan and communications strategy for the additions to the correctional centre with the local community.
- Centre management will develop an updated program of communication with neighbouring residents, including points of contact during any crisis situation at the Centre.
- Centre management will continue working through the correctional centre to report on security measures and action taken in relation to escape management.

(2) Concern with the potential for increased crime and anti-social behaviour in the locality, connected with the Centre.

- Centre management will continue to work with police, Council and other community groups to ensure management of crime levels;
- Continued liaison with the Local Area Command to ensure staffing levels remain adequate and to continue to share information where relevant.

(3) Impact on social and welfare services.

- Enhance partnerships with local government and not for profit community service providers to assist in minimising the impact of the correctional centre, to facilitate the integration of service delivery.



- Centre management will engage in on-going consultation with indigenous service and social housing providers to assess any increase in demand on local social housing services.
 - Cessnock Correctional Centre to increase awareness of support and assistance which is available through Justice NSW to eligible visitors of inmates.
 - Establish a Health Reference Group to enable open and ongoing dialogue between NSW Justice Health and the Hunter New England Local Health District to ensure any issues that arise following the expansion of the Centre are addressed with both short and long term solutions.
 - Centre management to liaise with Council and community groups to monitor the social and economic impacts of the facility on the surrounding community.
- (4) Addressing the needs of the Indigenous community
- Engage local Aboriginal land councils to participate in the Community Consultative Committee or other form, where necessary, to address relevant community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs.

6.2.2 Maximise Positive Economic and Social Impacts

- (1) Cessnock Correctional Centre is to work closely with local businesses and service providers, including schools, to ensure all possible opportunities for partnership and development are identified and addressed.
- Hold discussions about methods of ensuring maximum opportunities for local firms to win tenders under the Justice NSW centralised tendering process.
 - Ensure that tenders are placed in local newspapers.
 - Regularly publish a list of upcoming future tenders at Council and in the local areas.
 - The Community Consultative Committee shall engage with local schools and other community facilities during early operation of the new centre to identify initiatives which provide community benefit
- (2) Liaise closely with economic development groups to develop new ways to value add economically from the Centre, e.g. attracting new industries, briefing sessions to assist the local community in the development of individual or consortium based approaches to bid for tenders.
- (3) Community Consultative Committee to work co-operatively with the key community groups to develop and facilitate skills enhancement programs.
- (4) That the Department of Justice liaise closely with Councils Economic Development team to facilitate local employment opportunities for both the construction phase and general on going management of the centre.



Figures



Source: Nearmap 2016

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cessnock Correctional Centre, Lindsay Street, Cessnock

FIGURE 1A
Aerial Photo - Detail

Prepared For - NBR Architecture



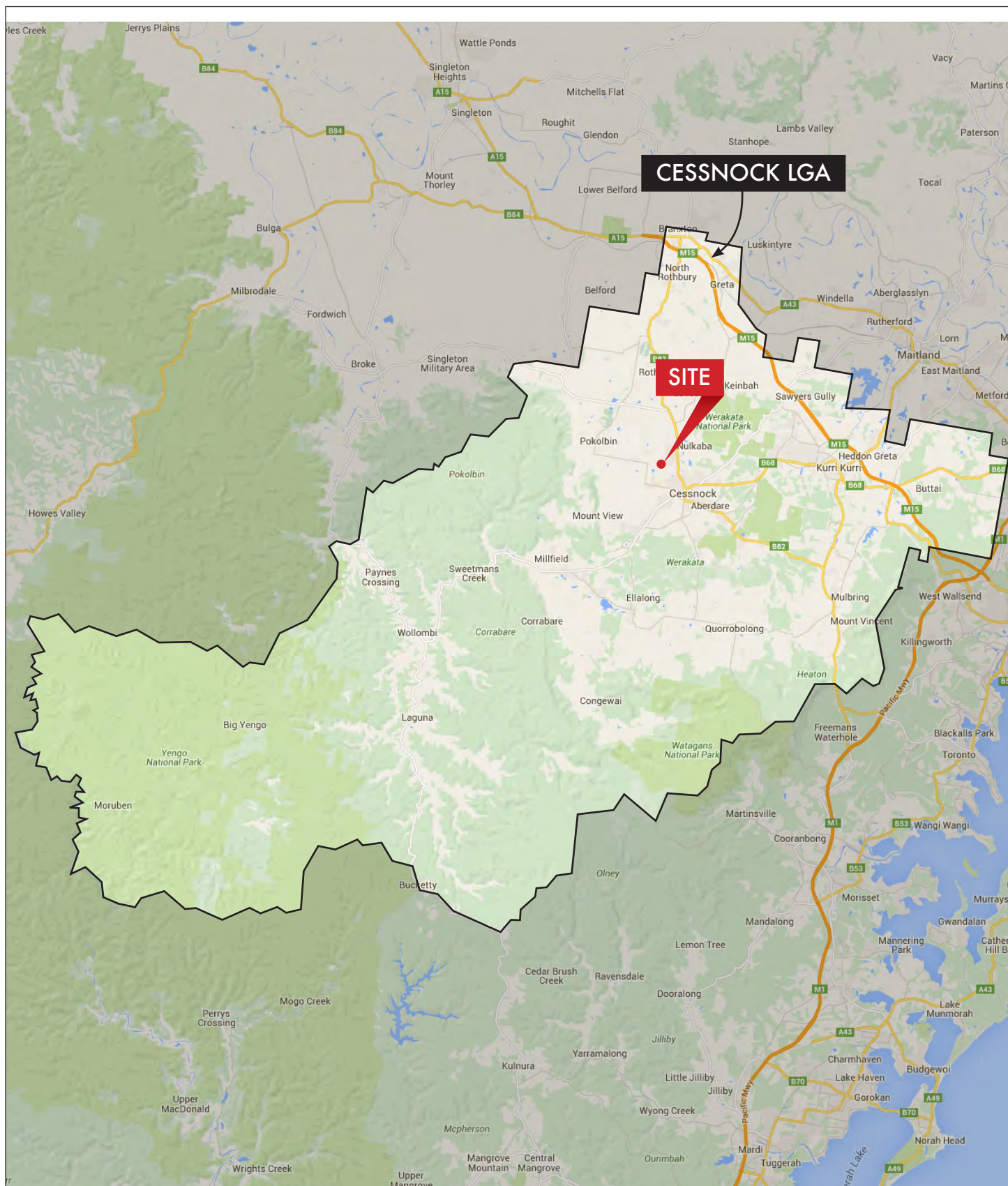
Source: Nearmap 2016

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cessnock Correctional Centre, Lindsay Street, Cessnock

FIGURE 1B
Aerial Photo - Wider Area

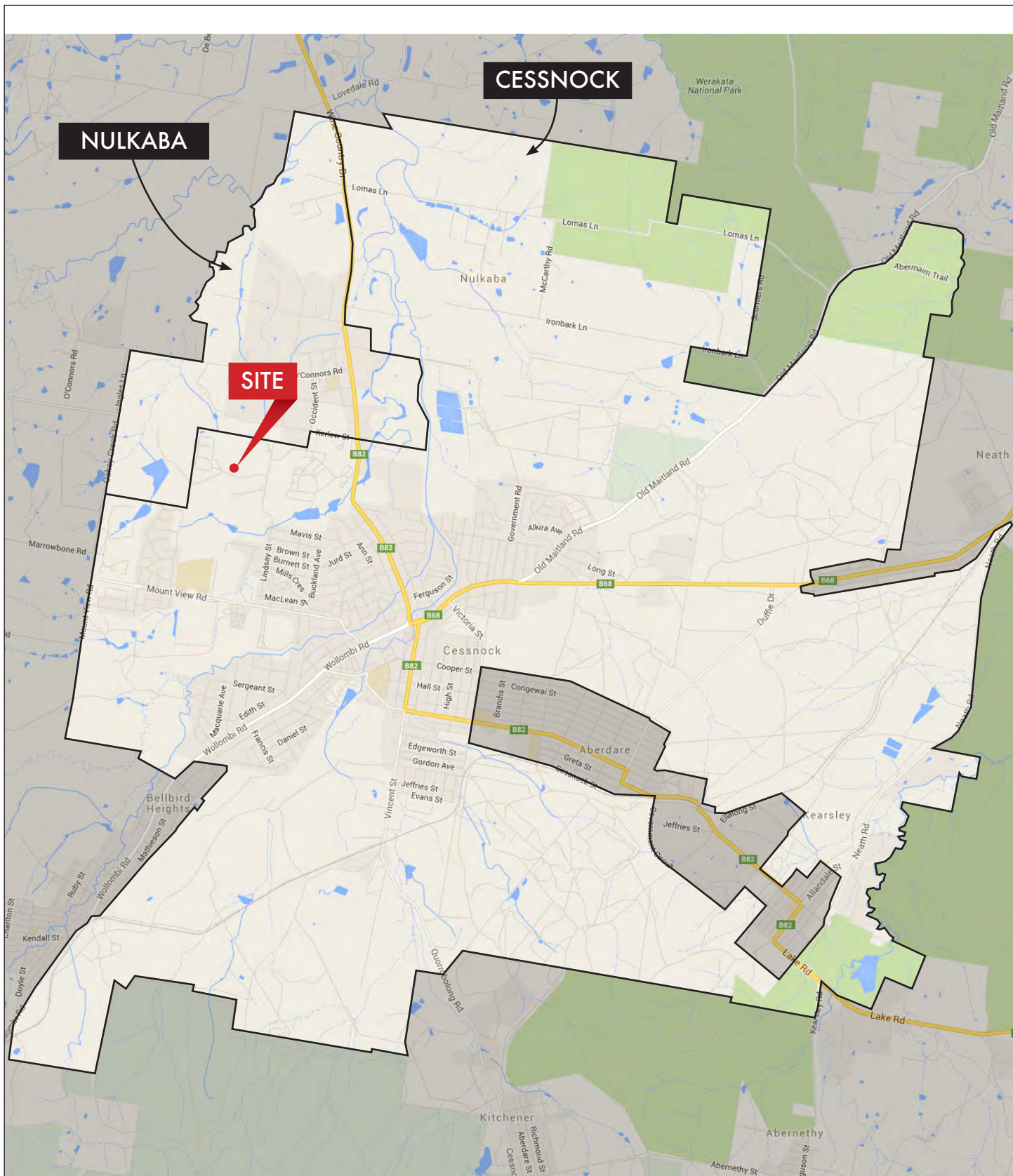
Prepared For - NBR Architecture



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
 Cessnock Correctional Centre, Lindsay Street, Cessnock

FIGURE 2
 Site in Context of Cessnock LGA

Prepared For - NBRS Architecture



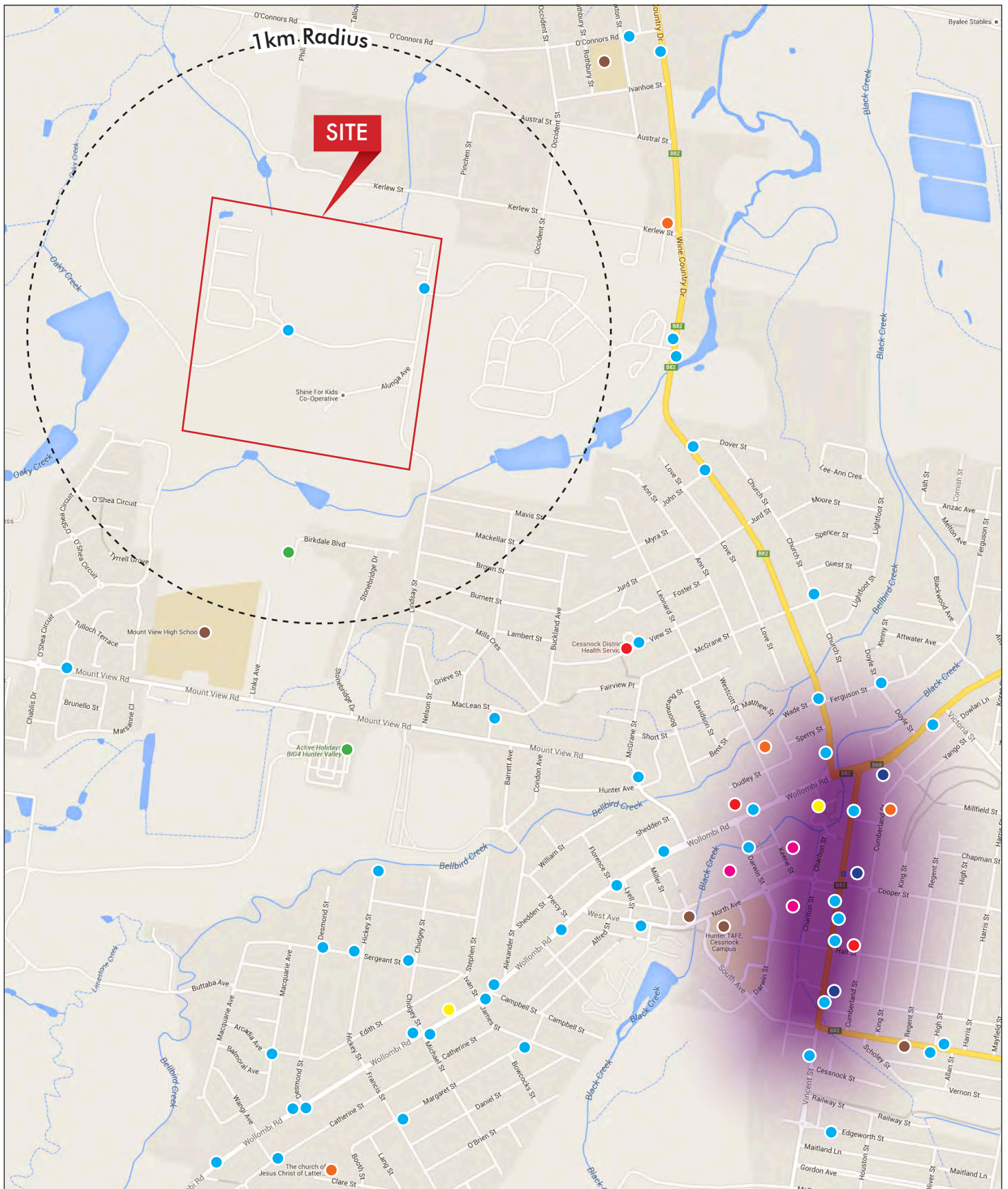
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cessnock Correctional Centre, Lindsay Street, Cessnock

FIGURE 3

Site in Context of Cessnock and Nulkaba Suburb Boundary

Prepared For - NBRS Architecture



Source: Google Map

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Cessnock Correctional Centre, Lindsay Street, Cessnock

FIGURE 4

Nearby Facilities - Approximate Location

Prepared For - NBRS Architecture

LEGENDS

- Bus Stop
- Recreational Park
- Educational Institution
- Shopping Centre
- Post Office
- Public Buildings
- Health Facility
- Place of Worship
- Cessnock Town Centre



APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1

Demographic Summary

	Owned outright	1,628	33.1%	70	40.2%	6,345	34.8%	10,090	34.6%	820,006	33.2%
6	Owned with a mortgage	1,396	28.4%	89	51.1%	6,615	36.3%	10,806	37.1%	824,293	33.4%
7	Rented (Total):	1,675	34.0%	12	6.9%	4,590	25.2%	7,300	25.0%	743,050	30.1%
8	Real estate agent	912	18.5%	12	6.9%	2,725	14.9%	4,140	14.2%	430,133	17.4%
8	State Housing Authority	385	7.8%	0	0.0%	640	3.5%	1,051	3.6%	108,841	4.4%
	Other tenure type	43	0.9%	0	0.0%	121	0.7%	195	0.7%	20,418	0.8%
	Not stated	182	3.7%	3	1.7%	558	3.1%	769	2.6%	63,529	2.6%
	Income										
^	Median Individual Income (\$/weekly)	426	-	564	-	472	-	511	-	561	-
^	Median Household income (\$/weekly)	870	-	1,853	-	1,042	-	1,182	-	1,237	-
9^	Labour Force										
10	Labour force participation	5,341	48.3%	313	72.8%	22,339	55.9%	38,087	59.0%	3,334,857	59.7%
11	Unemployed persons	393	7.4%	12	3.8%	1,451	6.5%	2,019	5.3%	196,526	5.9%
12	Occupation										
	Managers	407	8.2%	36	11.9%	1,819	8.7%	3,708	10.3%	418,333	13.3%
	Professionals	510	10.3%	39	12.9%	2,248	10.8%	4,191	11.6%	713,547	22.7%
	Technicians and trades	887	17.9%	57	18.8%	3,975	19.0%	6,773	18.8%	414,669	13.2%
	Community and personal service	593	12.0%	24	7.9%	2,188	10.5%	3,480	9.6%	297,668	9.5%
	Clerical and administrative	516	10.4%	43	14.2%	2,388	11.4%	4,215	11.7%	473,140	15.1%
	Sales workers	567	11.5%	35	11.6%	2,036	9.7%	3,129	8.7%	290,497	9.3%
	Machinery operators and drivers	671	13.6%	44	14.5%	3,046	14.6%	5,569	15.4%	199,438	6.4%
	Labourers	700	14.1%	22	7.3%	2,804	13.4%	4,345	12.0%	273,129	8.7%
	Not stated	99	2.0%	3	1.0%	379	1.8%	656	1.8%	57,909	1.8%
	Industry										
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	76	1.5%	5	1.7%	378	1.8%	1,225	3.4%	69,576	2.2%
	Mining	518	10.5%	52	17.2%	2,126	10.2%	5,078	14.1%	31,185	1.0%
	Manufacturing	519	10.5%	23	7.6%	2,598	12.4%	3,729	10.3%	264,864	8.4%
	Electricity, gas, water and waste services	44	0.9%	4	1.3%	239	1.1%	565	1.6%	34,205	1.1%
	Construction	308	6.2%	12	4.0%	1,594	7.6%	2,665	7.4%	230,058	7.3%
	Wholesale trade	121	2.4%	9	3.0%	540	2.6%	984	2.7%	138,890	4.4%
	Retail trade	644	13.0%	31	10.2%	2,395	11.5%	3,677	10.2%	324,725	10.3%
	Accommodation and food services	645	13.0%	36	11.9%	2,036	9.7%	3,022	8.4%	210,378	6.7%
	Transport, postal and warehousing	144	2.9%	10	3.3%	825	4.0%	1,393	3.9%	155,025	4.9%
	Information media and telecommunications	23	0.5%	6	2.0%	122	0.6%	194	0.5%	72,489	2.3%
	Financial and insurance services	62	1.3%	3	1.0%	287	1.4%	477	1.3%	158,425	5.0%
	Rental, hiring and real estate services	78	1.6%	11	3.6%	309	1.5%	558	1.5%	51,553	1.6%
	Professional, scientific and technical services	124	2.5%	11	3.6%	709	3.4%	1,297	3.6%	247,293	7.9%
	Administrative and support services	168	3.4%	12	4.0%	706	3.4%	1,200	3.3%	102,355	3.3%
	Public administration and safety	220	4.4%	7	2.3%	888	4.3%	1,679	4.7%	192,632	6.1%
	Education and training	229	4.6%	15	5.0%	1,016	4.9%	1,866	5.2%	248,951	7.9%
	Health care and social assistance	609	12.3%	23	7.6%	2,265	10.8%	3,391	9.4%	364,322	11.6%
	Arts and recreation services	49	1.0%	6	2.0%	240	1.1%	323	0.9%	46,332	1.5%
	Other services	244	4.9%	21	6.9%	1,074	5.1%	1,853	5.1%	117,616	3.7%
	Not stated	125	2.5%	6	2.0%	536	2.6%	890	2.5%	77,456	2.5%
	Education										
13	Completion of Year 12 (or equivalent)	2,370	22.2%	147	37.1%	9,558	24.9%	17,131	27.8%	2,631,287	49.2%
14^	Without post-school qualifications	5,245	49.1%	165	41.7%	18,663	48.7%	29,208	47.4%	2,147,190	40.2%
	SEIFA	Rank (within Aus)	Decile (within Aus)	Rank (within Aus)	Decile (within Aus)	Rank (within Aus)	Decile (within Aus)				
15	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage	883	2	6,621	9	125	3				
15	Index of Relative Socio-Advantage Disadvantage	817	1	6,564	8	115	3				

*Source: Unless indicated otherwise, all suburb, Trade Area, LGA, SD and NSW data was compiled using ABS Census Tablebuilder 2011, which is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing 2011.

^Based on ABS Basic Community Profile (BCP), 2011.

General Notes:

- Unless indicated otherwise, all data is based on place of usual residence and excludes overseas visitors.
- Unless indicated otherwise, data pertaining to dwellings excludes ‘visitor only’ and ‘other non-classifiable’ households.
- Due to the randomisation process applied by ABS to protect the confidentiality of individuals and households, totals of some categories (e.g occupied private dwellings excluding visitor only and non-classifiable households) may vary slightly within different headings.
- The percentages (%) represent proportion of total persons in the specified region unless otherwise noted.

Specific Notes:

1. Count of occupied private dwellings, excluding ‘visitor only’ and ‘other non-classifiable’ households.
2. Includes single family and multiple family households.
3. Percentages represent proportion of total families in region.
4. Includes both occupied and unoccupied private dwellings.
5. Includes ‘visitor only’ and ‘other non-classifiable’ households
6. Includes dwellings purchased under a rent/buy scheme.
7. Includes dwellings rented from all landlord types i.e. real estate agent, State/Territory housing authority, person not in same household, housing co-operative/community/church group, other landlord type and landlord type not stated.
8. Percentages shown are the proportion of total dwellings stock in the region (i.e not a proportion of rental dwelling stock). As the various other landlord types (including landlord type not stated) have not been shown in this table, the combined totals for “real estate agent” and “State/Territory housing authority” do not equal the “rented (total)” figure above.
9. Based on the ABS BCP for all areas
10. % represents the proportion of persons in the region aged 15 years and over.
11. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of persons aged 15 years and over participating in the labour force.
12. % represents the proportion of all employed residents in an area. ‘Not Stated’ and ‘inadequately described’ proportions are not shown here, but have been included in the total occupation / industry counts (as appropriate)
13. Excludes persons still attending school.
14. % represents the proportion of persons in the region aged 15 years and over, who were not attending school.
15. SEIFA 2011 data obtained from the ABS, Catalogue 2033.0.55.001.



APPENDIX 2

List of Local Agencies Consulted

Appendix 2: Agencies Contacted During the Consultation Process

AGENCY	POSITION
Accommodation and Housing	
Compass Community Housing	Tennant Engagement Officer
Jurd's Real Estate	Owner
The Traveller's Rest Motel	Owner/Operator
Hunter Valley YHA Hostel	Owner/Operator
Caravan Park (Active Holidays Big4 Hunter Valley)	Manager
Caravan Park (Active Holidays Cessnock Wine Country)	Manager
The Department of Housing Maitland	Team Leader
Child Care & Education Facilities	
Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre	Director
Goodstart Early Learning Cessnock	Director
Nulkaba Public School	Principle
Cessnock Public School	No Comment
Cessnock East Public School	Principle
Mount View High School	Principle
Welfare and Charitable Services	
Samaritans Information and neighbourhood centre (Friendship House)	Co-ordinator
Neighbourhood Centre (Samaritans)	Manager, Client Services
Indigenous Community	
Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.	Office Manager
Local Business/Neighbours to the Centre	
Stonebridge Golf Club	Office Manager
Calvary Retirement Community Cessnock	Office Manager