



SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Additions to South Coast Correctional Centre

Final

**Prepared for
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The South Coast Correctional Centre (the Centre) is a maximum and minimum security prison originally designed for both men and women, located in the suburb of Nowra Hill. The Centre falls within the Shoalhaven Local Government Area, on the south-eastern coastal region of NSW. The existing facility has a current capacity for a total of 600 inmates, classified and on remand, catering for both maximum and minimum security. It is understood that whilst the Centre can accommodate female inmates this is likely to occur only on a temporary basis.

The NSW custody statistics show that there are currently 12,390 adults and 294 juveniles in custody (both remand and sentenced prisoners)¹ in NSW however, it is likely that this figure has increased more recently to over 12,600. 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 2036² the South Coast Correctional Centre has been identified as a centre with capacity to expand to provide additional maximum and minimum security beds within the existing site.

A physical description of the existing site and the proposed development is included in the Review of Environmental Factors.

BBC Consulting Planners has been commissioned to prepare this Socio Economic Impact Assessment as part of the REF. In accordance with the staging of the project, this report assesses the general socio economic considerations in relation to the Centre additions and upgrades. It is noted that at the time of preparation general consultation is being undertaken by NSW Justice and engagement and discussion will continue to occur following the completion of the report. Given the consultation process is ongoing it is anticipated the outcomes and strategies identified in this report may be updated where necessary to reflect additional issues that arise as a result of ongoing engagement.

The objectives of undertaking this study are as follows:

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

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.

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 community.³

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

Significant events experienced by people as changes in one or more of the following:

- *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 society.⁵*

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:

1. **Scoping.** Identify 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 "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.

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?

1.2.1 Note on involvement in the Community Consultation Process

It is important that the assessment of social impacts is informed by engagement with representatives of organisations and key stakeholders. Such discussions provide valuable information in understanding the community and its values, and in particular inform the evaluation of potential impacts.

As general consultation for the project is being undertaken by NSW Justice and scheduled to continue following the completion of this assessment, targeted discussions have been held with key stakeholders to gauge an understanding of the current operations and likely impacts as a result of the expansion. Discussions have been held with representatives of the following agencies:

- NSW Department of Housing (Nowra Office)
- Nowra Community Corrections Office
- South Coast Correctional Centre
- Shoalhaven City Council
- Local accommodation providers (Nowra Gateway Caravan Park, Shoalhaven Caravan Village, Nowra Motor Inn)

Whilst attempts were made to discuss the proposal with a number of other stakeholders it is recommended that in addition to the stakeholders identified above, the following groups be included in ongoing consultation regarding the project:

- NSW Police, Shoalhaven Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officers
- Department of Education and Training
- Illawarra Institute of TAFE
- Wollongong University (Nowra Campus)
- Salvation Army – Bridge Program
- Drug and Alcohol Community Adult Team – Nowra Office
- Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital
- Centrelink

It is anticipated that following the completion of the more general consultation process the recommendations and strategies identified will be updated to reflect additional issues that may be raised as a result of the ongoing consultation.

1.3 Existing Socio Economic Impact Assessments

The social and economic impacts of a number of existing and planned correctional centres throughout NSW have been documented in a series of investigations prior to, and since, the respective centre commenced operations.

The following Post-Occupancy social impact studies have informed the basis of our assessment:

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

Specifically, these studies have monitored the following key issues which have been identified as being of particular interest to communities in relation to correctional centres throughout NSW:

- 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.

The studies have found that, in general, existing correctional centres are well established in the social and economic fabric of the 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 Centre

2.1 The Existing Facility and Surrounding Context

The South Coast Correctional Centre, a maximum and minimum security prison located in the suburb of Nowra Hill, approximately 168km south of Sydney, and 86km south of Wollongong. The Centre caters primarily for inmates from the South Coast, between Helensburgh and the Victorian border. The facility has a current capacity for 600 inmates. It is understood the facility was originally designed to cater for both male and female inmates however, the majority of inmates are recorded as being male⁶.

The site is located on the Princes Highway approximately 4.5kilometres south of the Nowra Town Centre on the southern fringe of the Nowra urban area. It has an area of 122.7 hectares, comprising 7 lots. Uses to the north and east generally comprise mixed use industrial development.

Access to the site is via a Links Road, off the Princes Highway, a single internal road that forms the southern leg of a roundabout controlled intersection. The nearest railway station is Bomaderry, approximately 10km north of the centre. It is understood that a local bus service provides transportation on Saturdays and Sundays from Bomaderry train station to the Centre to cater for the increased needs in transportation for visitors to the centre.

2.1.1 Description of the Facility

Outside the secure fenced area:

- The **gatehouse**, which is the administration and entry point for all access to the centre;
- Staff, visitor, disabled/executive **car parking** areas;
- **Transport/response** unit, which provides the base for parking of secure vehicles and the dog squad;
- Laundry and stores building;
- Maintenance; and
- **Shine for Kids** unit.

Inside the secure fenced area;

- the **high security unit**, having accommodation for up to 364 maximum and medium security inmates, as well as an industries and programmes building, workshops and kitchen building, a recycling and worm farm facility, gymnasium, and areas for outdoor activities;

Security

The primary physical security measure is fencing. In addition, the SCCC utilises electronic surveillance and detection systems. The systems are enhanced with static and dynamic security by all staff utilising the area.

⁶ Corrective Services NSW, NSW Inmate Census 2015: Summary of Characteristics.

The maximum security area is within the outer secure fenced area and surrounded by a 5-metre-high concrete fence topped with razor wire. An additional layer of MACEM fencing inside the concrete fence is also provided.

Accommodation buildings vary in layout and materials with the units within:-

- the **men's minimum security zone** with 78 beds within three domestic style buildings, with a community centre for shared activities and workshop for industries, outdoor activities and recreation area;
- the **women's unit**, with 62 beds, comprising two domestic style accommodation buildings and a community centre for shared activities; workshop for industries; outdoor activities and recreation area; and
- the **shared zone**, for the use of all inmates, comprising a **clinic, reception and visits and chapel** building.

2.1.2 Visits

Inmates are able to have one visit a week, allowing a maximum of four adult visitors and a manageable number of children.

All visits must be pre-booked with details of every person to be visiting provided to the Centre.

Visiting Hours

Visit times are Saturdays and Sundays between 9am – 3pm.

Legal practitioners may visit on Monday – Friday between 9am and 2pm.

Visiting Conditions

A number of conditions are specified for visitors in relation to:

- Clothing requirements (e.g. enclosed footwear, removal of jewellery, no hooded jumpers)
- Medical certificates for medications or metal implants
- Use of toilets
- Appropriate behaviour
- Use of phones and money and cameras

All visitors are subject to a search by a metal detector.

Number of Visitors

The current visitor trends assessed in the traffic and parking assessment attached to the REF show that the visitor numbers can vary considerably, particularly given the multi-classification of the facility. Noting that visiting hours are pre-booked with visitors allocated a time for visitation during the weekends, traffic flow on weekends is considered to be moderate and uniform over the day given the allocated time periods for visits.

The overall total number of visitors to the Centre per year/month is expected to increase with the additional inmates, which has been taken into consideration with the proposed construction of a new visits area for the minimum security area and upgrade to the existing maximum security visits area.

2.2 Establishment of the existing Centre

The South Coast Correctional Centre is one of the most recently established correctional centres in NSW. In 2007 the Department of Corrective Services announced the intention to establish a new correctional centre within close proximity and with good access to regional courts, emergency and social services in the South Coast area. Following analysis of a multitude of sites the site at South Nowra was determined appropriate and a new 500 bed correctional centre was proposed at the existing South Coast Correctional Centre site. The centre was opened late in 2010.

The assessment of the establishment of the new centre included the review of the Socio Economic Impacts, forming part of a larger suite of reports. The assessment of Socio-Economic impacts included the consideration of:

- Impacts to safety and security;
- Impacts to community services;
- Impacts on the local/regional economy.

2.2.1 Findings of the previous assessment

The findings of the initial SEIA study conducted in 2007 revealed the following.

Employment

- 30% of staff were assumed to be recruited locally from within the Shoalhaven LGA with an estimated 115 new jobs would be taken by people who live or are to relocate to the Shoalhaven LGA.

Population

- As a result of the new Centre, the population of Shoalhaven was anticipated to increase by an additional 390 persons, with a demand for an additional 119 dwellings.
- The number of inmate's families moving to the area was expected to be low.
- Unless originating from the area, the incidence of inmates released from the Centre who chose to remain in the area was expected to be low, unless they originated from the area.
- The Centre was anticipated to have a positive impact on the Indigenous community with provision of additional employment opportunities and allow relatives to be closer to family members who were incarcerated.

Positive Social Impact

- The proposal was anticipated to have a net positive social impact with fears and perceptions having little basis in fact.
- Benefits included involvement of the Centre in charitable activities, local sporting and community groups.

- Providing a major stable industry for Nowra.
- Contribution to the viability of smaller schools.
- Allowance for more efficient means of sentencing and minimising escape possibilities due to the proximity to courts.
- Increased potential for the augmentation of existing services such as the hospital Police and TAFE through increased demand.

Housing

- There was expected to be an increase in demand for emergency accommodation.
- There was anticipated to be a demand for rental accommodation.
- An increased demand for public and low cost housing;
- And increased demand for welfare services.

Other

The image of Nowra was not expected to be negatively affected by the presence of the Centre or have a negative impact on the quality of life of the local residents. The economic and social opportunities associated with the centre were anticipate to positively impact the image of the town and the quality of life of the residents.

2.2.2 Previous Recommendations

The initial SEIA report made the following recommendations in order to manage any socio-economic impacts in relation to establishing the new centre.

- Centre management to develop an Emergency Management Plan and communications strategy with the local community.
- Department of Corrective Services to work with Council and tourism authorities to maintain a positive image and build tourism opportunities.
- Promotion of economic benefits being delivered to the community (DCS and the Centre).
- The Centre to work with NSW Police and Council to ensure crime levels continue to decline.
- Open dialogue between the Centre and NSW Police to manage and share resources and information, particularly in relation to staffing levels.
- Promotion of a weekend shuttle service from Bomaderry train station to the Centre to minimise disruption to the town.
- Close integration with parole officers and other services to ensure smooth transition of released inmates back to their homes.
- Increased partnership with groups and agencies (including St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and the Smith Family) to minimise the impact of the Centre.

Housing

- Liaison with Council and the Department of Housing and community housing providers to explore alternatives for temporary accommodation for construction workers.
- Monitor the availability of temporary accommodation.
- Development of practical solutions for short term affordable accommodation for visitors of inmates.

- Monitor the placement of families of inmates in Department of Housing accommodation to ensure allocation to appropriate geographic locations.
- Smooth transition of inmates upon release with accommodation providers in Nowra to ensure minimal impact on emergency accommodation providers.

Additional

- Communication program with neighbours.
- Department to work with the economic development team within Council to ensure opportunities to contribute positively to the local economy are maximised.
- Coordination of community wide issues surrounding Indigenous needs.
- Centre to work closely with local businesses and service providers, including schools to ensure all possible opportunities for partnership and development are identified and addressed.
- Liaison with TAFE to enable courses to be development to provide locally based skilled workforce for the construction program.
- Investigate ways the Centre and minimum security inmates on work release can contribute to local public works and community projects.

3. Proposed Additions

The works to which this report relates include the provision of

- An additional new 160 bed maximum security accommodation
- A new 200 bed minimum security facility to the north.

The capital investment value of the works is estimated to be \$148 million, with construction anticipated to take two years, commencing in late 2016.

3.1 Operational workforce

As a result of the completion of the works, additional staff are expected to be employed at the Centre, within the following categories:

- 180 custodial
- 42 industries
- 49 programs
- 32 health
- 13 administration

Approximately 30% of these positions will be allocated to minimum security areas.

3.1.1 Staff Recruitment

Where possible, a proportion of staff can be sourced from the Nowra region, providing an important pool for base grade custodial positions where such positions cannot be filled from within the DCS. In addition, industries and non-custodial staff could be recruited locally, where possible.

It is noted that the initial assessment of the original proposal indicated that approximately 30% of staff would be recruited locally from within the Shoalhaven LGA. Proving to be a success it would appear that recent recruitment has indeed sourced new recruits from within the Shoalhaven area with just over 50% of new recruits in 2016 recruited locally from areas around the South Coast⁷.

Given the initiatives that are underway to source staff from within the South Coast area it is anticipated that a significant proportion of additional staff, required in association with the additions, will also be sourced from within the local area (estimated to be 30% of all additional staff).

3.2 Construction Workforce

Construction of the works is expected to take approximately two years, with plans to complete the works by the end of 2018. The number of workers on site daily is expected to grow

⁷ Crawford, R. (2016) *South Coast Correctional Centre hosts officer attestation*. South Coast Register 8 April 2016 – Local News.

progressively as the construction project increases in scale with up to 60 workers anticipated to be on site during the peak construction phase. During the later stages worker numbers will decline dramatically as construction activity is completed. Overall approximately 307,000 man hours will be spent on the construction of the additions.

3.2.1 Construction Employment Opportunities

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.

3.3 Inmate Employment

Original establishment of the Centre identified that industries created within the Centre was a key element of inmate rehabilitation with working inmates fulfilling the discipline aspect of a corrective environment whilst also compensating the community. Discussions with key stakeholders as well as local news reports indicate employment programs established within the Centre have been operating successfully, providing significant contribution to the local community, particularly through the Community Partnerships Programs (discussed below).

3.3.1 Minimum Security

Following assessment, the inmates within the minimum security area can participate in education, training and employment programs. The programs are designed to support the pathway to employment and further education in the community and will offer assistance to inmates to address their barriers to education.

Inmates can participate in part time basic education classes as well as engage in employment with the Corrective Services Industries. It is understood that one inmate has successfully completed a degree at the University of Wollongong, Nowra campus, with support provided by the Centre such as the provision of a bicycle to attend classes.

Currently minimum security inmates are involved with:

- Engineering;
- Facility maintenance;
- Hygiene operations;
- Laundry Business unit;
- Food services;
- External and internal ground maintenance work;
- Warehouse/store;

- Community projects;
- Participation in mobile outreach programs.

Recent reports suggest the employment of inmates has had a positive benefit on the demand for services within the local community. The Community Partnerships Program, a joint initiative of the South Coast Correctional Centre and the Community Corrections Office in Nowra, commenced in 2012 to provide the use of offender's subject to Community Service Orders, Intensive Correction Orders or minimum security inmates for the purposes of assisting local groups, such as St Vincent De Paul, Helping Hands, Fire Services NSW and Council Neighbourhood Centres, local schools, with maintenance and construction of local facilities. Projects have included the maintenance around the Crookhaven Lighthouse and assistance with the finalisation of the Woolly Way, community footpath in Woollamia⁸ as well as the vegetable gardens program for Helping Hands.

It is anticipated that the demand for employment opportunities for inmates will increase proportionally as a result of the expansion. However, this additional employment demand has been taken into consideration and it is understood the current work release programs can cater for additional inmates with benefits recognised in having additional inmates available to undertake works to assist local community groups.

It is understood that the community projects are organised through bimonthly community partnership meetings, held in offices provided by Shoalhaven Council, and attended by local organisations and groups such as Rotary, providing opportunities for the identification and establishment of projects to be implemented in the local community.

3.3.2 Maximum Security

A number of maximum security inmates are also employed in various internal commercial and service industries and programs. Following assessment of inmate capabilities inmates could be allocated to the following areas:

- Furniture manufacturing;
- Packing and assembly work;
- Internal ground maintenance;
- Hygiene operations;
- Manufacturing of cubby houses;
- Package and distribution of inmate breakfast packs;
- Internal ground maintenance;
- Hygiene operations.

It is understood that the new additions will increase the number of maximum security inmates participating in industry employment within the centre.

⁸ South Coast Register, 5 July 2016 *Work teams offer free labour.*

3.4 Education and Training Opportunities

Since 2012 the Centre has operated an Intensive Learning Centre, providing opportunities for both maximum and minimum security offenders to learn skills and build confidence through a variety of learning opportunities. The Learning Centre, one of four operating in NSW, has been developed following recognition that engaging inmates in learning is an important step to assist inmates in securing employment opportunities as well as being better prepared to complete prison programs and treat the cause of their offending behaviour.

One such training program provided was the Parental and Community Engagement Project⁹, a story-telling exercise designed for indigenous offenders with children, with participants recording and then presenting stories from within the centre over an 18-month period, increasing literacy skills and media production skills.

Another program managed through the ILC is the ongoing performances of the Sydney Symphony Fellows within the Centre's visitor rooms¹⁰. Providing opportunities for inmates to listen and access live music the sessions also allow for inmates to ask questions about the instruments as well as of the performers. The program has not only benefited the inmates in providing opportunities and experiences that they may not normally access, thought to encourage a learning of communication and teamwork to inmates, but also benefits the Sydney Symphony Fellows in experience with communicating classical music to new audiences.

In addition, a number of minimum security inmates attend TAFE courses as external students however, it is also understood that TAFE teachers will also attend the centre to provide training in construction, such as bricklaying, to inmates. It is expected that these training courses will continue to run and cater for the additional number of persons seeking training as a result of the expansion.

3.5 Community Interrelationships

3.5.1 Community Consultative Committee

The establishment of Community Consultative Committees is a standard practice of Corrective Services NSW, as a function of their correctional centre to inform the community with regards to the construction and operation of centres. Committee members are generally drawn from the local community (especially neighbours), the magistracy, courts administration, local Government, police, representatives of the local business community, local community service and health care providers, as well as correctional centre management and staff. Representatives of Aboriginal groups may also be represented on the Committee. Community Consultative Committees are seen as an important element for maintaining community reparation activities.

The role of Community Consultative committees is:

⁹ The Red Room Company, 2014, *Unlocked Report 2010 – 2014, Poetry in Unusual and Useful Ways*.

¹⁰ A Thompson, 2015, *Sydney Symphony performs at Nowra jail*. Illawarra Mercury. 24 April 2015.

- 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 community.

Activities undertaken through Committee organisations 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.

It is understood that a Community Consultative Committee was operational when the Centre was originally established, with regular meetings attended by local police, Department of Health, University of Wollongong (Nowra campus), and community members including local residents. The Committee provided updates to the community regarding the development of the Centre, also providing open days once the Centre was completed. It is understood the Committee is not currently active at the South Coast Correctional Centre.

It has been reported in discussions with key stakeholders that the Community Consultative Committee was effective in establishing and maintaining positive relations with community stakeholders particularly with the adjustment to having a new Correctional Centre in the area. In relation to the expansion of the Centre it is recommended that a committee be reformed in association with the commencement of works to allow for open effective communication between stakeholders in identifying issues and concerns that might arise as a result of the additions. The Committee will also allow for effective monitoring of the positive impacts of the development, such as increased opportunities for works programs to be established as a result of the increased number of inmates.

3.5.2 Work in the Community

As previously discussed, minimum security inmates are involved in supervised work outside the Centre. It is understood the current Community Partnerships Program has been operating successfully with opportunities for local groups to identify and establish works programs for inmates to contribute to on a short and medium term basis.

The Centre currently has a total of 3 local business approved for works release with a number of other local business considering also interested. Such employment opportunities are sourced and from the local area and is secured via the Centre through negotiations with local employers.

Works release is only ever offered to C3 inmates whom are considered to be low risk. Typically, an inmate would travel within the Nowra / Bomaderry locality only via foot, bicycle or transport offered by the local business. An inmate works any hours as required subject to security checks.

School maintenance programs are operated throughout school holiday periods, with capacity to increase the number of inmates participating in the works programs as a result of the additions. With up to 10 offenders attending pre-organised work days, monitored and managed by a supervisor, the additional number of minimum security inmates at the Centre as a result of the expansion has the potential to significantly increase the number of inmates available for community work.

It is understood that some inmates who may remain in the area upon release, will retain the same jobs upon release with some programs, such as oyster shucking apprenticeships, and laundromat services, established to allow ongoing employment of inmates upon release.

3.5.3 Prison Servicing Interagency Meeting

Established following recognition by local agencies and groups of the gaps in the provision of services to inmates upon release, the Prison Servicing Interagency meets bi-monthly to discuss and workshop the provision of better outcomes for inmates. The group aims to:

- Clarify roles of all agencies and identify overlaps in the provision of services
- Identify service provision gaps
- Reduce the barriers to participation in employment
- Improve communication with services
- Allow for general discussion

Attendance of the meetings has included organisations such as Centrelink, Corrective Services, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, SSI Ability Links, Barnardos FRS, Legal Aid, Ability Links, Campbell Page, and St Vincent De Paul. The meetings are currently chaired by the Department of Corrective Services.

It is understood that the Interagency meetings have been effective in establishing a more coordinated response to issues arising with the centre, and have been particularly successful in assisting inmates adjust to regular independent living upon release. A major benefit of the group is the ongoing open dialogue between agencies to plan for key events and programs at the Centre, that require joint coordination. For example, Expo days that operate at the Centre each year allow for inmates to access information about housing opportunities upon release through, face to face discussions and information tables set up within the centre for inmates to ask questions to individual agency representatives.

It is also understood that the group has been able to achieve:

- Improvements to the income support services by DHS Centrelink for inmates following release;
- Improved health outcomes with engagement of clients prior to release and improved medical information sharing between the Centre and key health providers;
- Better support from job providers for prison release clients looking for work;
- Direct DHS Social Work servicing to Community Corrections; and
- Direct advocacy to organisations that may cause barriers to inmates upon release (such banks and RMS).



Not only has the group had a number of achievements to date but also has a number of future goals and projects underway resulting in improved future outcomes for the Centre and region. Projects such as recognition of prior learning undertaken whilst in prison has been identified as a key future project, as well as organising future Expo days where information can be shared with inmates to better prepare them for release.

Given the success of the group to date in identifying gaps and issues and then establishing proactive strategies to effectively address these it is recommended the group continues to meet to effectively monitor and manage needs and issues that arise as a result of the expansion of the Centre.

3.5.4 Other

It is understood that in addition to regular engagement and cooperation by key agencies in the management and day to day functions of the Centre that the Centre Business Manager attends the Safer Community Actions Teams with representatives of the Local Area Command and Shoalhaven Council. St Vincent De Paul and the Salvation Army are also noted to work with the Centre on a regular basis. It is recommended that engagement with these key agencies continue to occur as a result of the expansion of the Centre.

4. Demographic Profile

The following demographic profile is based upon data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing for 2011. At the time of preparation of this report, no preliminary data from the 2016 Census had been released. The Census data has been supplemented with other data where available. The purpose is to provide an understanding of the characteristics of the community within which the South Coast Correctional Centre is located.

A number of comparative areas have been used within this demographic profile, the first being the Nowra suburb, Nowra Hill, which covers the site of the Centre, Nowra SA2, which covers the existing urban area. Data for the Shoalhaven Local Government Area and the Illawarra region is also included for comparison. A summary of key demographic indicators has been provided in Appendix 2.

As noted by the ABS, detainees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, in detention centres in Australia, people in police lock ups or prisons are in the scope of the Census. Details are sourced from administrative data so only basic demographic statistics including age, gender, indigenous and marital status are available¹¹.

Data in relation to the Corrective Services NSW Inmates has been extracted from the most recent NSW Inmate Census, conducted as part of the National Australian Prison Census for 30 June 2015.

4.1.1 Corrective Services NSW Inmates

4.1.1.1 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 (77.0%) and have never been married (58.8% at time of reception). 24.2% of all inmates were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.¹²

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.¹³

¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011. 2901.0 – Census Dictionary, 2011 Scope and Coverage.

¹² Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

¹³ Corrective Services NSW, December 2015. *NSW Inmate Census 2015, Summary of Characteristics*.

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).¹⁴

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 sentence.¹⁵

4.1.1.2 South Coast Correctional Centre

South Coast Correctional Centre was originally designed as a male and female centre however, it is understood the majority of inmates located at the Centre are males, with females housed at the Centre on a temporary basis. In accordance with the latest NSW Inmate Census (June 2015) there were 364 maximum security inmates (363 males and 1 female) accounting for 3.1% of the total maximum security inmates in NSW. The 211 minimum security inmates make up 1.8% of the minimum security inmate population in NSW.

4.2 Description of Communities

The South Coast Correctional Centre is located within the suburb of Nowra Hill. As seen in Figures 1 and 2 (Appendix 1) Nowra Hill is located within the Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 5km from the Nowra town centre.

The Shoalhaven is a large area of 4,558sq. km which has many diverse and isolated settlements. Nowra along with its twin town of Bomaderry is the largest urban centre in the region. The area is described as a 'rural coastal region with in-migration of 'lifestyle' professionals and of ex-Sydney working class people who were victims of the recession.' The recent influx of city investors making lifestyle changes has inflated property values, changed the availability of services, instigated a new economic imbalance and is contributing to the creation of a 'new poor'. There is also a large tourist population during holiday periods¹⁶.

4.3 Shoalhaven Development History

Located on the south coast of NSW the original inhabitants of the Shoalhaven area are the Wodi Wodi, Wandandian and Murramarang Aboriginal People. By the 1850s townships were established in Berry, Bomaderry, Kanagaroo Valley, Milton, Nowra and Ulladulla, acting as service centres for the surrounding farming districts. The population continued to grow, with significant development occurring along the coastal areas during the post-war years, particularly due to the increase in older retirees and people seeking holiday accommodation. Today, the most significant growth has occurred in the Nowra-Bomaderry area, attracting a significant number of residents from the Sydney and Illawarra region.

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

¹⁵ Corrective Services NSW, November 2015. *Population Trends, Full Time Custody 2014-2015*.

¹⁶ Shoalhaven city Council (2003) *Living Futures – Shoalhaven Community Safety Plan 2003 – 2006*, p.11.

The Nowra-Bomaderry area has traditionally attracted more families and older persons seeking better access to health services and a wider variety of residential accommodation. Migration patterns between 2006 – 2011 have shown that a significant portion of the population (33.6%) moved within and into the Shoalhaven LGA over the 5-year period with 11.5% of the total LGA population moving from another part of NSW.

It is noted that the Centre inmate population would be included in this migration summary with the majority of inmates likely to be included in the count of residents who had moved from within the Shoalhaven LGA as well as from another part of New South Wales.

Previous residential location of current residents in 2011

Shoalhaven City



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented by in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



4.4 Current Population

In 2011 the population of the Nowra Statistical Area 2 (SA2) was 18,104, accounting for 20% of the Shoalhaven LGA population. The population of the Shoalhaven LGA increased from 88,405 in 2006 to 92,812 in 2011, a growth of 5.0%, a marginally smaller growth rate than that recorded for the LGA between 2001 to 2006 (6.1% growth).

The table below shows that between 2006 and 2011, the Nowra Hill suburb experienced a significant increase in population, mostly due to the opening of the Centre in 2010. Growth in population for the Nowra suburb and Shoalhaven LGA is consistent with the regional growth of the state of NSW.

Table 4-1 Population Change 2006-2011

Area	2006	2011	2006-2011 Change	
	Persons	Persons	Persons	%
Nowra SSC	8,905	9,257	+352	4.0
Nowra Hill SSC	800	1,830 ¹⁷	+1,030	128.8
Shoalhaven LGA	88,405	92,812	+4,407	5.0
New South Wales	6,549,178	6,917,658	+368,480	5.6

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2006.

4.4.1 Age Structure

- The Nowra Suburb had a slightly smaller proportion of children aged 14 years and under (18.9%) in 2011 compared to the Nowra SA2 (20.7%), however, it conversely had a slightly higher proportion compared to the Shoalhaven LGA (17.7%).
- In 2011, 34.6% of residents in the Nowra SCC were aged 25-54, a marginally higher proportion than that recorded in the Shoalhaven LGA (33.5%), however, lower compared to New South Wales (41.4%). 38.3% of residents in the Nowra SA2 area were identified as being aged between 25-54 years.
- The median age of the Shoalhaven LGA is significantly older (46 years) compared to that of NSW (38 years), reflecting the migration patterns and retirement lifestyle living choices of the South Coast. Comparatively the Nowra suburb also records an older median age (42) with the Nowra SA2 area much younger (37 years) as well as the Nowra Hill suburb (33 years, reflecting the younger age profile within the Centre).
- The Nowra Suburb has a similar proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (22.7%) compared to the Shoalhaven LGA (23.3%) and New South Wales (23.1%).

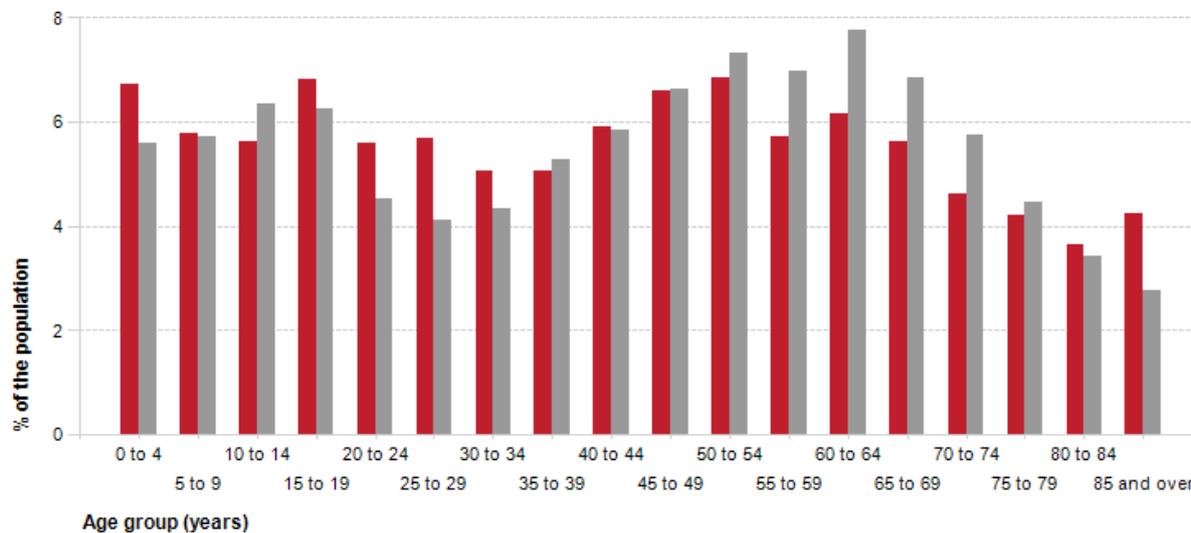
The graph below highlights the age structure differences between the Nowra suburb and the Shoalhaven LGA, identifying that perhaps younger persons within the region and those over 85 who are likely to need greater access to services and facilities are located towards the town centre, with the broader region being more popular for persons of retirement age seeking to live outside a major urban centre.

¹⁷ Note: the significant increase in population accounts for the opening of the Centre in 2010 housing up to 600 inmates and staff located at the Centre on the night of the Census count.

Age structure - five year age groups, 2011

Total persons

■ Nowra ■ Shoalhaven City



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



4.4.2 Future Population Trends

The most recent population projections for the Shoalhaven LGA have been obtained from the Department of Planning Transport and Planning Data Centre (Table 4-2 below). Projections for the Illawarra region are also provided for comparison. As can be seen, considerable growth is expected in the region in coming years.

Table 4-2 Population Projections

	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Shoalhaven LGA	96,200	99,800	103,000	105,850	108,150
Illawarra Region	385,300	402,800	419,800	435,850	450,300
New South Wales	7,218,550	7,708,850	8,230,400	8,739,950	9,228,350

Source: NSW Department of Planning, Transport and Planning Data Centre. 2016

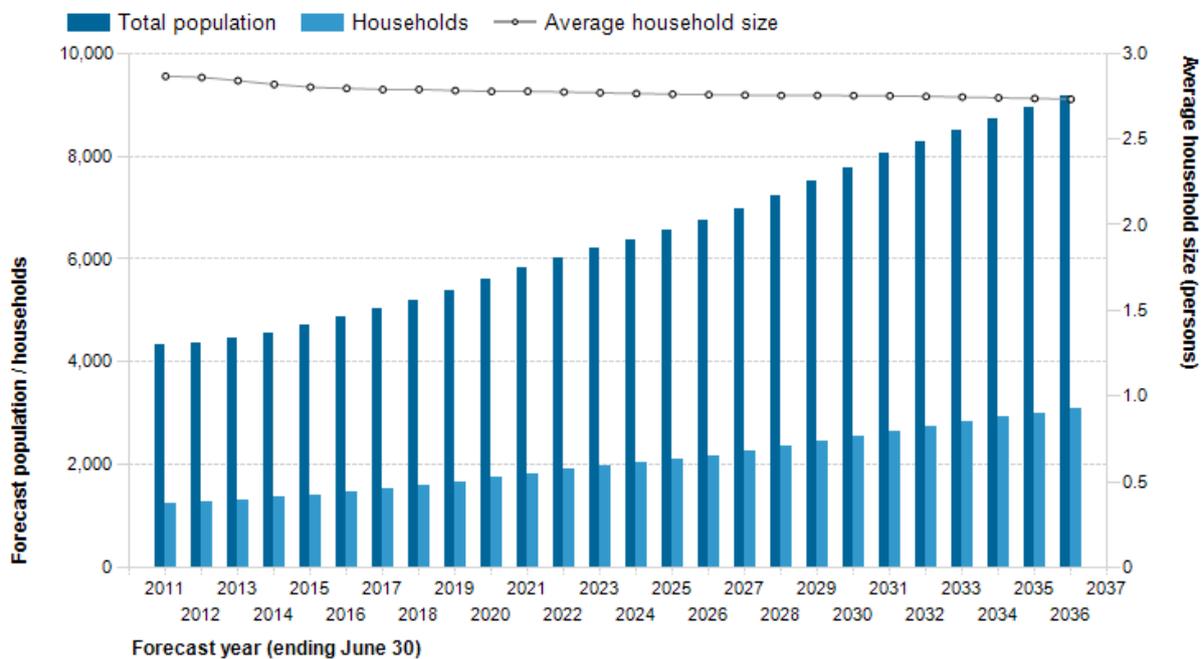
The Nowra suburb is projected to have a 7.3% population increase between 2016 – 2036 with an additional 687 people living in the suburb by 2036 (an average annual growth rate of 0.35%). The number of dwellings is anticipated to increase from 4,216 in 2011 to 4,751 by 2036, a 12.67% increase. Dwelling occupancy rates are expected to remain high with 94.95% of dwellings being occupied by 2036.

In comparison the West Nowra, South Nowra, Nowra Hill and surrounding areas is estimated to have an 88.38% increase over the next twenty years with an additional 4,298 people estimated to be living in the areas by 2036. This equates to an annual average growth rate of 3.03%. The number of dwellings is anticipated to increase from 1,334 in 2011 to 3,308 in 2036

(147.98% increase). Dwelling occupancy rates are anticipated to remain high with 93.02% being occupied by 2036.

Forecast population, households and average household size

West Nowra - South Nowra - Nowra Hill and Surrounds



Population and household forecasts, 2011 to 2036, prepared by .id the population experts, February 2015.



4.5 Social and Economic Characteristics

Key characteristics of the population of the Nowra SA2, Shoalhaven LGA are outlined below, which are compared to Illawarra region, where appropriate.

4.5.1 Ethnicity

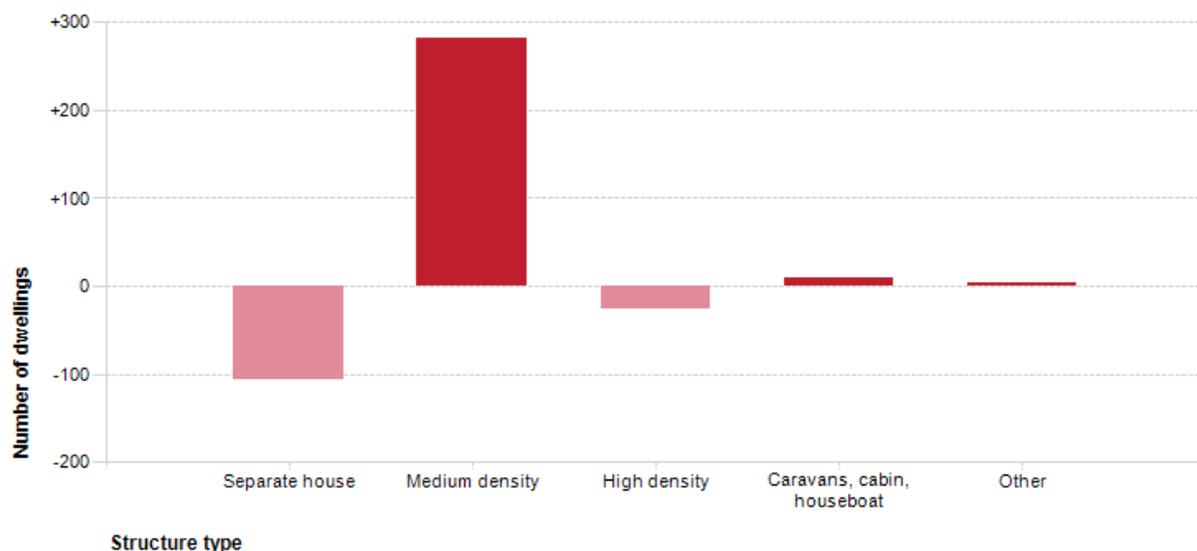
- In 2011 8.5% of the Nowra SA2 population (Including detainees at SCCC) indicated that they were of Indigenous origin, which is significantly higher than the Shoalhaven LGA (4.7%) and the Illawarra Region (2.3%). Approximately 7.5% of the surrounding area (SA1) population (including the detainees at SCCC) were of indigenous origin.
- The surrounding areas (SSC) and the Nowra SA2 is relatively monolingual with only 4.7% of persons from non-English speaking backgrounds and an average of 7% in the surrounding State Suburbs. The percentage of persons from non-English speaking backgrounds is consistent with the Shoalhaven LGA (4.8%), however, lower than the Illawarra Region (12.5%).

4.5.2 Household Type and Structure

- In 2011 69.0% of households in the Nowra SA2 (not including detainees at SCCC) were characterised as Family Households, which is similar to 69.9% recorded in the Shoalhaven LGA and 72.1% in the Illawarra Region.
- Households characterised as Lone Person Households in 2011 comprised 27.8% in the Nowra SA2, compared to 27.7% in the Shoalhaven LGA and 24.5% in the Illawarra Region.
- The Nowra SA2 area contained a higher proportion of couple families without children (38%) and one parent families (17.3%) compared to the NSW average (36.6% and 16.3% respectively).
- Occupied Private Dwellings in the Nowra SA2 were particularly high at 92.7% compared to Shoalhaven LGA and the Illawarra Region (72.5% and 91.8% respectively).
- As shown in the graph below, reflective of smaller household sizes dwelling types are changing with a significant growth in the number of medium density dwellings in Nowra recorded from the period between 2006 to 2011. An addition of the number of caravans, cabins and houseboats is reflective of the tourism industry in the area.

Change in dwelling structure, 2006 to 2011

Nowra



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006 and 2011 (Enumerated data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

4.5.3 Education

- Level of education in the region is low. Excluding detainees at the Centre, 28.4% of persons in the Nowra SA2 had completed Year 12 (or equivalent) compared to Shoalhaven LGA (31.4%), the Illawarra Region (40.6%) and NSW (49.2%).
- The proportion of persons without post-school qualifications is marginally higher in Nowra SSC (44.0%) than the Shoalhaven LGA and the Illawarra Region (42.4% and 42.1% respectively).

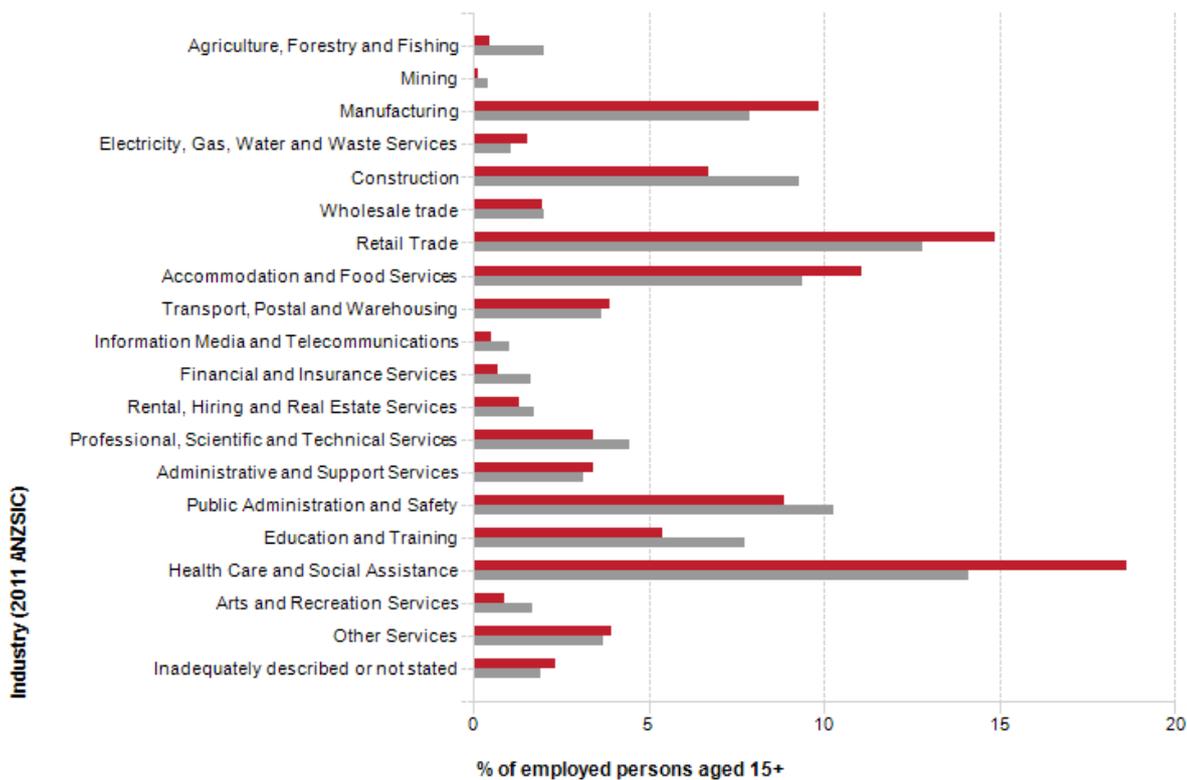
4.5.4 Employment and Labour Force

- Excluding detainees at the Centre, the Nowra SA2 area had a higher proportion of unemployed persons (8.8%) compared to the Shoalhaven LGA (7.6%), Illawarra region (6.7%) and NSW (5.9%).
- A significantly higher proportion of persons were unemployed in the Nowra suburb (13.0%) compared to NSW (5.9%).
- As can be seen below, the most common industry for employed persons living in Nowra SA2 and Shoalhaven LGA was Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade as well as Manufacturing.

Industry sector of employment, 2011

Total employed persons

■ Nowra ■ Shoalhaven City



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

4.5.5 Economic

- 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 to provide an indication of the relative level of advantage and disadvantage within the Nowra Hill Suburb, and the Shoalhaven LGA. It is important to note that the profile of the inmate population within the Centre would not be incorporated into the SEIFA scores for 2011.
- The results for the 2011 Index of Disadvantage show that the Nowra Hill suburb is relatively more advantaged and less disadvantaged in general compared to other suburbs in Australia. However, the Shoalhaven LGA is more moderately disadvantaged and slightly less advantaged compared to other LGAs in Australia.

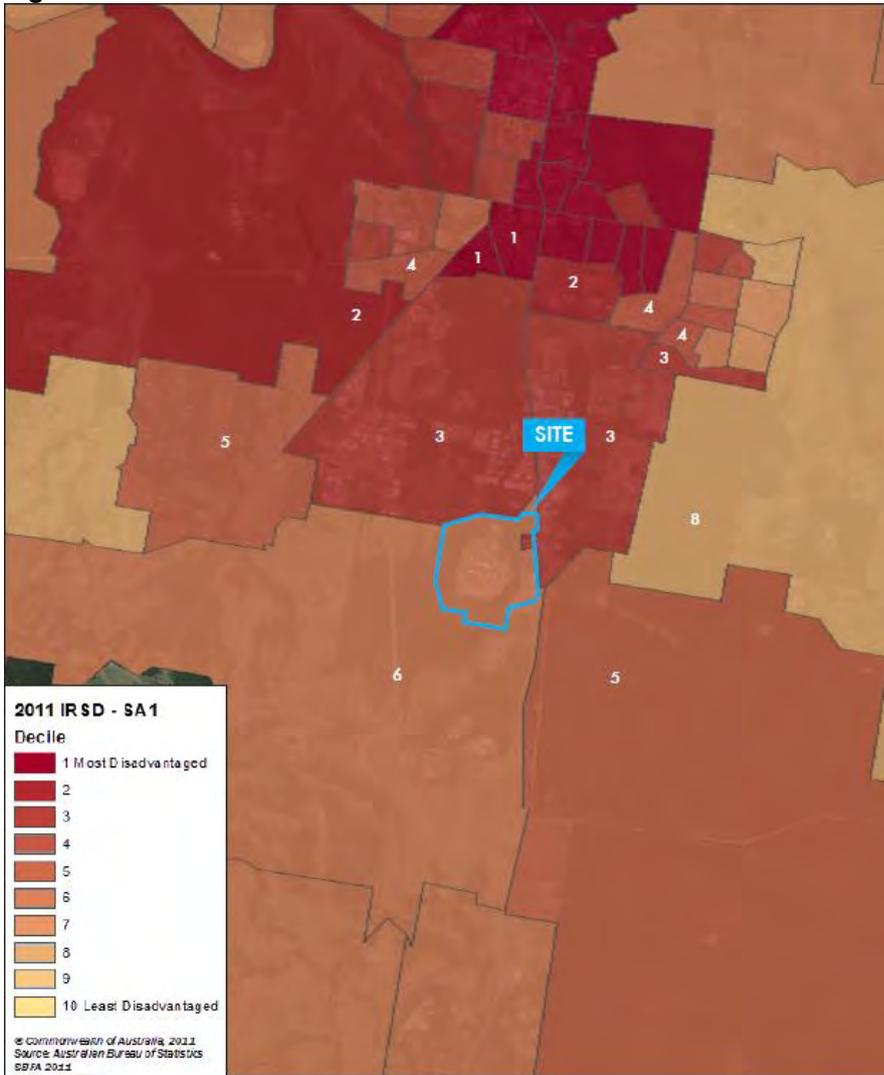
Table 4-3 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage 2011

	Area	Score	Ranking within Australia	
			Decile	Percentile
SEIFA Advantage and Disadvantage	Nowra Hill Suburb	1032	7	69
	Shoalhaven LGA	944	4	38
SEIFA Disadvantage	Nowra Hill Suburb	1033	7	64
	Shoalhaven LGA	955	4	36

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011.

Assessment of SA1 areas, (see Figure 1 below) shows that the population surrounding the Centre is relatively mixed in terms of levels of advantage or disadvantage however, there is a higher concentration of a more disadvantaged population towards the Nowra town centre. This is to be expected given town centres such as Nowra provide a range of services and facilities that a diverse population would require access.

Figure 1 IRSD 2011 SA1



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, SEIFA, 2011

5. SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The expansion of correctional centres can cause concern in communities, in relation to the perceived social impacts. This review is based on background research, compilation of a demographic profile, a review of key policies and relevant reports, as well as an assessment of the impact of the existing Centre following its opening in 2010.

Initial scoping of the project identified some issues that are relevant to correctional centres, those being, perceptions of safety and security, population change within local communities, effects on transportation services, health services, education and child care, Indigenous communities as well as local economic impacts.

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 and is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of the surrounding community;

The Centre will continue to have a high quality perimeter security zone;

Activities will be managed by Corrective Services Division staff and the community will not be exposed to any undue risk.

As was anticipated with the initial development of the Centre the additions are considered to have a positive social benefit for the wider community, providing relief for the already overcrowded correctional facilities in NSW and the associated high risk issues.

5.1 Local Community Concerns

Whilst consultation conducted as part of the preparation of the REF is being undertaken as a separate exercise, some targeted discussions in relation to the assessment of social impacts has been held with key stakeholders as a result of the preparation of the SEIA and has revealed there are few concerns arising from stakeholders in relation to the proposal.

In addition, targeted discussions have also indicated that the opening of the Centre in 2010 has had minimal impact on the local community and given proactive engagement and coordination between key agencies and services the Centre has made some significant contributions to the local community, for example the operation of the Community Partnership Program, providing the use of offenders subject to Community Service Orders and Intensive Corrections Orders or minimum security inmates for the maintenance of community facilities.

5.2 Concerns over Safety and Security Relating to Escapes

Investigations of recently reported escapes from the South Coast Correctional Centre reveals both a recent escape by an inmate in custody during admission to the Shoalhaven Hospital in August 2016 and a foiled escape attempt from the minimum security section, in May 2016.

Managed by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) a Census of NSW inmates is conducted on an annual basis to include an assessment of 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.

As shown in Table 4-1 below, in 2012/13 there were only 10 escapes across NSW in total, one of which was from a maximum security facility and 5 from minimum security facilities. Other incidents occurred whilst being escorted and on work release programs. Escapes from maximum security centres have remained uniformly low since 1979¹⁸. 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.

¹⁸ Clark, J., Corben, S., Heggie, K., and Stone, L. (2006), Department of Corrective Services, Corporate Research, Evaluation and Statistics, "Trends in escapes from NSW Department of Corrective Services custody", Research Bulletin No. 22.

Table 5-1 Escapes by Security Level Breached 2012/13

Security level breached	Incidents	Escapees		Number at large at 1/7/2012
		Number of offenders	%	
FULL-TIME CUSTODY				
From within maximum security	1	1	10.0	-
From within medium security	-	-	-	-
From within minimum security	3	5	50.0	-
Area adjacent to a maximum or medium security	-	-	-	-
Escorted - other (e.g. hospital)	1	1	10.0	-
Escorted external work party	2	2	20.0	-
Escorted external sport/education	-	-	-	-
Day/Weekend leave	-	-	-	-
Unescorted education programs	-	-	-	-
Work release program	1	1	10.0	-
Other unescorted authorised absence	-	-	-	-
Police/court cell complexes	-	-	-	-
Transport (including transfers)	-	-	-	-
Sub-total full-time custody	8	10	100.0	-
PERIODIC DETENTION				
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	10	100.0	-

NB: The count of escapes is based on CSNSW specific counting rules which are not aligned with nationally comparable counting rules adopted for the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services*.

Source: Corrective Services NSW October 2014. Statistical Report 2012/2013.

From late 1988, additional strategies designed to decrease the number of escapes were introduced across NSW. These included building more effective perimeter security systems, 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.

5.2.1 Reasons for Escape

Internationally, there is relatively little published literature analysing prison escapes, and many of the studies available are based on dated data. One study that has been undertaken in NSW was a longitudinal study by the Research and Statistics Unit of the DCS over the period 1985 to 1992 to identify the reasons inmates escape¹⁹. 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

¹⁹ Thompson, B (1992) Department of Corrective Services "Reasons for Escape: Interviews with Recaptured Escapees", Research Bulletin No. 17

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 5-2 Reason for Escape

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 sex²⁰.

5.2.2 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 DCS' 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.

Data on the recapture of escapees is less accurate and relatively little detailed study has been undertaken²¹. 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 facilities²².

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 5-3 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

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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).

²² 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.

Month + = a month or more

Source: DCS Research and Statistics Unit, 1996

5.3 Concerns about Effects on Community

5.3.1 Likelihood of Families of Inmates Moving into the Area

Previous studies have shown 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.

Previous investigations conducted in association with the review of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre showed that the relocated families of inmates are minimal with little or no impact on existing community services and facilities within local areas.

In addition, recent key stakeholder discussions have revealed there has been little impact on the local region in relation to families of inmates moving to be close to the Centre given the Centre is only open on weekends making it more likely that families of inmates will have a short term stay within the local area to visit during pre-arranged visiting times.

It is understood that whilst an inmate could technically remain at the Centre for the entire length of their sentence given the multi-classification of the Centre it is unlikely that certainty can be provided as to the long term stay at the Centre given:

- Inmate preferences;
- Inmates on remand;
- Unhealthy associations;
- The need for specialist management treatment;
- Personality conflicts;

Which may result in an inmate being relocated.

Families are taking risks by relocating to Nowra to be near an inmate with loss of social networks and employment issues being particularly relevant for families considering moving to Nowra.

With the initial investigations of the opening of the Centre in 2010 it was suspected that if any partners or families of inmates moved to Nowra that this would be a small number. The result would see a small additional demand for services provided by the Department of Housing, another low cost housing providers and welfare services and community health services as a result of families relocating to Nowra.

Recent targeted discussions with service providers in the area have indicated this is not the case and whilst housing affordability is a significant issue for the area there has not been a significant increase in demand for services that can be directly attributed to the opening of the Centre in 2010.

5.3.2 Rationale for the Low Incidence of Families of Prisoners Moving into the Area

Previous impact assessments of prisons have found that there are generally some common reasons for the low incidence of family relocation, including:

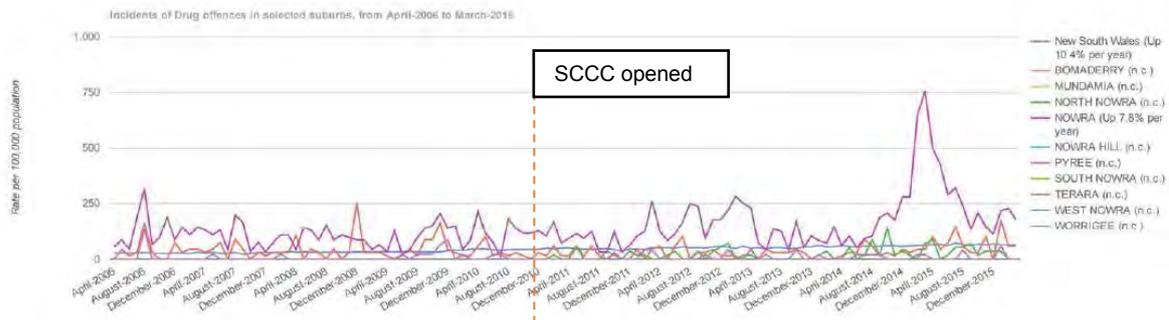
- There is an uncertainty of the length of stay, particularly at maximum security institutions, due to the rotation of inmates between institutions. Movement may occur as a result of the inmates “programmed pathway”, reclassification of security level, prisoner preference, prevention of unhealthy associations, changing management policies at the prison, personality conflicts, and so on.
- The prison is open only on weekends. With the majority of inmates coming from the local area, many visitors are able to make a day visit, or only need to stay away one night, as shown in the visitor survey where 61% of visitors were either day or overnight visitors.
- With respect to public housing tenants, taking a house in the local area would mean that the family would lose their place on any other waiting lists. Should they wish to move back to their previous area of residence, for example, they would be forced to re-join the waiting list.
- Families of prisoners 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.

Stakeholder discussions have indicated that it is not often that family members would move to Nowra to be closer to an inmate at the Centre. Given the Centre visiting hours are anticipated to remain on weekends only, it is unlikely that there would be a significant increase in the number of families moving to Nowra as a result of the expansion

5.3.3 Impact of Visitors to Inmates

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.

As seen in the crime trend analysis there has been a downward trend in crime recorded over the last 6 years (April 2010 – March 2016) for most incidents with no significant increase seen immediately following the opening of the Centre in 2010. Incidents of drug offences have had an increasing trend over the last 6 years within the Nowra suburb (up 15.8% per year between April 2010 – March 2016) however, as can be seen in the graph below, the increase appears to have significantly spiked between December 2014 – August 2015, 4 years following the opening of the Centre.



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 Centre must make appointments in advance and it is understood that this procedure will not change as a result of the expansion. All visitors must supply a number of forms of identification, or be subject to identification via 'thumb print' technology, and a photograph of each visitor is taken and placed on file. Visitors are also screened for drugs and other contraband. Police are called to the centre if any offences occur.

5.3.4 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.

Previous SEIAs of 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.

Findings from previous SEIAs revealed 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. Previous consultation regarding Lithgow Correctional Centre revealed that housing authorities and welfare organisations in Lithgow received a small number of requests to assist inmates upon their release.²³ However, it was noted that in most of these cases, the inmates were already residing in the Lithgow area prior to serving their sentences.

Staff at the Lithgow Correctional Centre were only aware of one maximum security inmate that had opted to remain in the local community upon release in the time that the centre had been operating.²⁴ The absence of inmates settling in the area in the instance of Lithgow can be

²³ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.17.

²⁴ Ibid., pg.18.

attributed to their movement to minimum security facilities closer to home, as well as a desire not to be identified by police and correctional centre staff in the area upon release.

Recent discharge summary reporting indicates a small but manageable portion of inmates released from the Centre are likely to reside in the Nowra, South Coast and Wollongong area. The additional increase in inmates as a result of the expansion is likely to be manageable in relation to inmates residing in the area upon release.

Recent discussions with the Department of Housing, Nowra Office, confirm previous research findings, reporting that it is likely that only inmates who were originally from the area prior to incarceration will remain in the area following release. It is understood that there have been no significant demands placed on the provision of housing and other services as a result of the opening of the Centre in 2010 following a coordinated response to the planning and preparation of inmates near to release. The Prison Servicing Interagency Meeting, established to address issues in relation to management of inmates needs as well as service provision in the area, has been a successful initiative for the operation of the Centre, aiding successful re-integration of inmates into society upon release. Through bi-monthly workshop meetings key agencies are able to coordinate roles and programs and communicate ideas and issues across key service providers to ensure inmates are appropriately assisted both during their stay at the Centre as well as during the time leading up to and of release.

Initiatives that have been successful include the regular Expo Days at the Centre, where inmates are invited to attend sessions to gain answers to housing needs and other service needs prior to release. Other successes have been the improvement of access for ex-prisoners to open bank accounts, gain employment and improved mental health training with participation of key agencies in the “Back on Track” pre-release course. All of these initiatives resulting in more effective integration of inmates back into society, making for a smooth transition for both ex-inmates as well as local communities, including that of Nowra.

5.4 Effect on Transport

The Centre is well placed in relation to local and regional road networks and public transportation options available to both visitors and Centre operations. The expansion of the facilities will create additional traffic however, it is anticipated this will be readily absorbed into the existing traffic flows with additional visitor numbers catered for with additional parking provided on site and adequate public transportation services that operate near the centre access road. It is understood that there is a bus service provided on Saturdays and Sundays to transport visitors from Bomaderry train station to the Centre. This service is expected to continue and will cater for the increase in visitors to the Centre following the expansion.

It is noted that the additional minimum security inmates will participate in external works release programs which may increase the demand for public transportation from the Centre given inmates to not drive to their place of employment.

It is understood this additional demand has been addressed in the Traffic and Parking Assessment and reviewed in the REF. Centre management would liaise with public transport providers in this regard.

5.5 Effect 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 centre in 2010 reveals there has been little impact on crime rates in the surrounding area, with the majority of incidents showing downward trends (March 2010 – April 2016). Whilst incidents of drug offences have increased in Nowra the increase does appear to be directly attributed to the opening of the Centre in 2010.

5.5.1 Crime Trend Research

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.²⁵

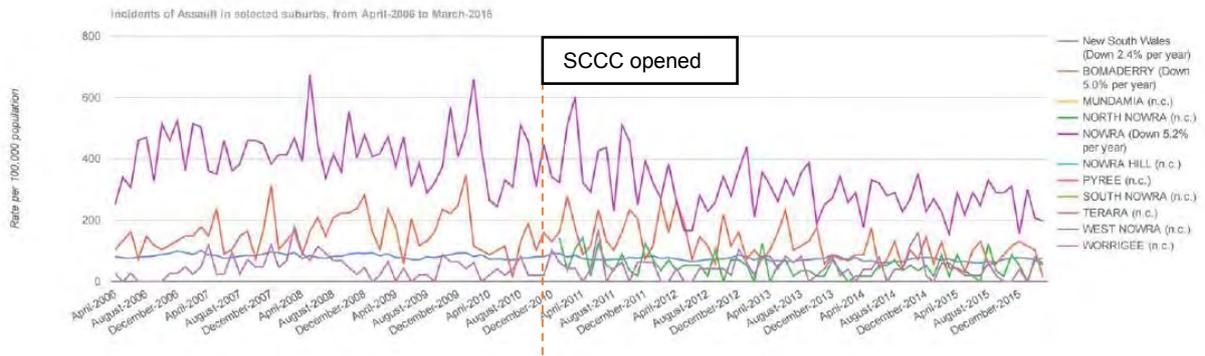
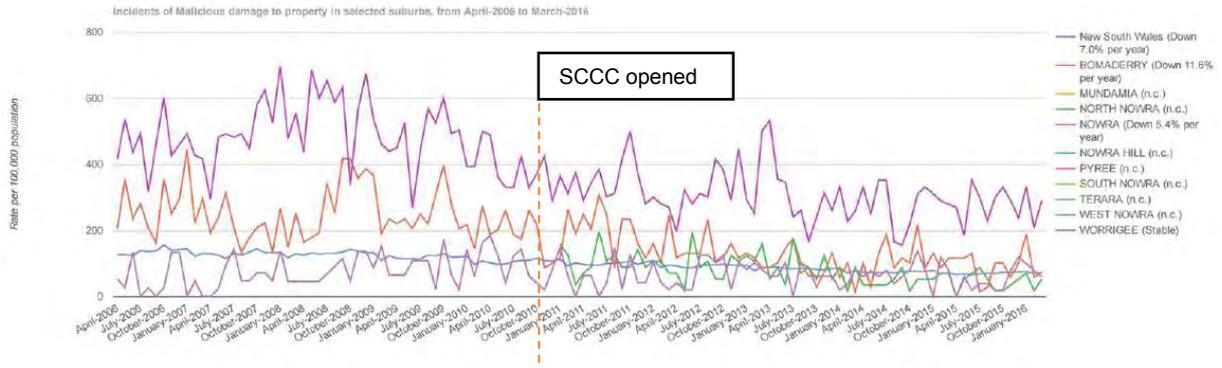
Looking at the current NSW crime trends for the suburbs surrounding the site it can be seen that the area is not considered to be an area containing a significant number of incidents of crime, noting that incidents of:

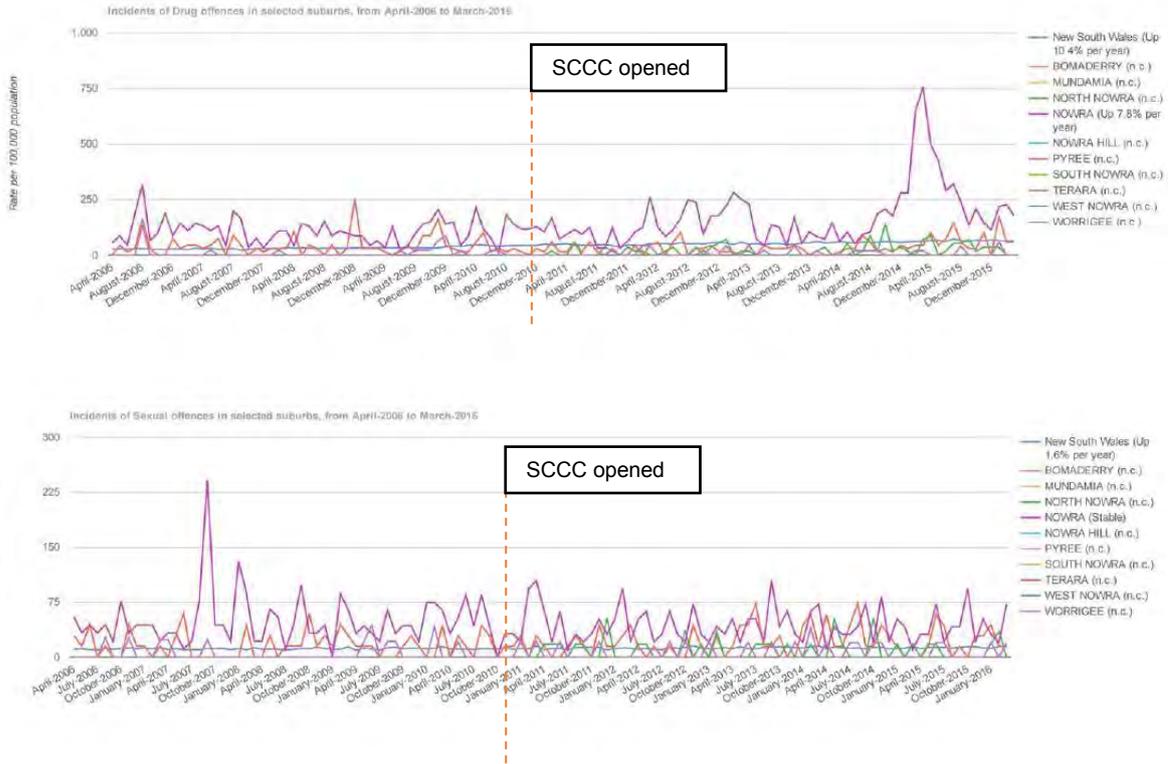
- Malicious damage to property have gone down 5.5% per year in the Nowra suburb (between April 2010 and March 2016) as well as the Bomaderry suburb recording a downward trend of 13.5% per year between April 2010 – March 2016.
- Incidents of assault have gone down 9.7% per year in the Bomaderry suburb and down 7.6% per year in the suburb of Nowra over the last 6 years (April 2010 – March 2016).
- Incidents of theft have remained stable for all suburbs.
- Incidents of sexual offence have remained stable for all suburbs.
- Incidents of drug offences have gone up 15.8% per year within the Nowra suburb over the last 6 years (April 2010 – March 2016).
- Incidents of harassment, threatening behaviour and private nuisances have gone down 5.1% per year within the Nowra suburb over the last 6 years (April 2010 – March 2016).
- Incidents of liquor offences have gone down 13.1% per year within the Nowra suburb over the last 6 years (April 2010 – March 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 Centre towards the end of 2010.

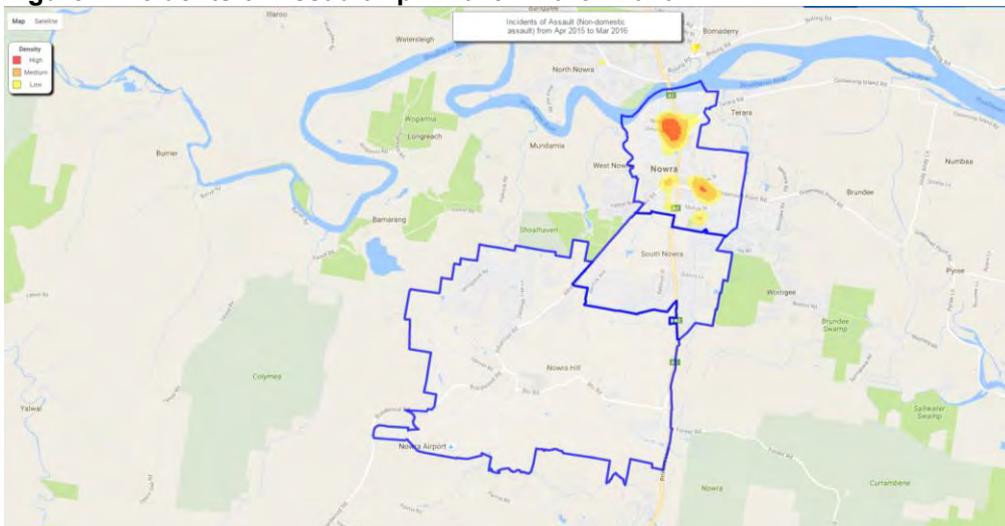
²⁵ Lithgow Correctional Centre Social and Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg. 14.





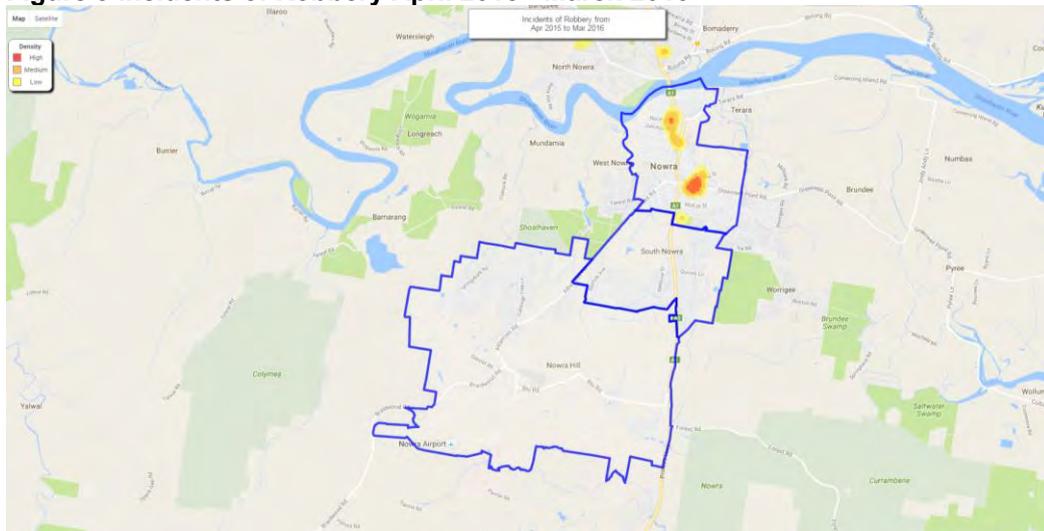
In addition, whilst hotspots are identified within the Nowra town centre, as seen in the figures below there are no areas of high density of assaults located within the area surrounding the Centre, nor are there any high density areas of robbery.

Figure 2 Incidents of Assault April 2015 - March 2016



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2016, NSW Crime Tool

Figure 3 Incidents of Robbery April 2015 - March 2016



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2016, NSW Crime Tool

The proposed works 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 any 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.

5.5.2 Correctional Centre trends

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

- Despite 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%²⁶.
- 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

²⁶ Ibid, pg.25.

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.
- 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 Centre.²⁷

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 6 years have remained stable or trended downwards in the surrounding suburbs with declining incidents of assault, malicious damage, robbery and theft within the Nowra 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.

5.5.3 Shoalhaven Crime Prevention Plan

The most significant crime issues affecting the Shoalhaven area, identified within the Shoalhaven Council Crime Prevention Plan relate to break and enter (dwellings) and assault (non-domestic violence related). Given Nowra is a large urban centre in the area it would be expected that a significant proportion of these anti-social activities would occur in the town centre. Whilst the Crime Prevention Plan identifies a number of actions to address the current crime issues within the LGA it is noted that there is no identified impact or association with the existing Centre.

It is to be expected that Local Police and the Centre staff will need to discuss coordination strategies as well as new recruitment possibilities and also look to work with offenders and their families for a whole of government approach to family management.

Whilst there can be concern within communities with regards to the potential for increases in crime as a result of the additions it is not anticipated that the additions to the Centre and increase in the number of inmates will result in significant additional criminal problems in the Nowra area, based on the experience of the establishment of the Centre in 2010.

²⁷ Lithgow Correctional Centre Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, 2007, pg.25.

5.5.4 Effect on Community Offenders Service

The Community Corrections Office is a branch of NSW Justice. Its role is to liaise with correctional centre staff and inmates relating to probation and parole matters in order to reduce the impacts of crime on the community through effective management of offenders. Discussions with the Office reveal that as planned, a new open office was established in Nowra with the opening of the Centre and that over time the expansion of the community service program has been successful with a number of community service projects being completed within the local area which has provided positive flow-on effects for the community.

5.5.5 Effect on Courts

A number of benefits were identified in the initial assessment of the establishment of the Centre in relation to the opening of the Centre and the impact on Court operations. It was anticipated that the benefits would include:

- Bail remands being centralised at the Centre with cells at Batemans Ba and Wollongong to be closed.
- Individual inmate attendance at Court rather than groups of offenders would result making it easier to manage and present a reduced escape risk.
- Convenient access for magistrates to make visits to the Centre.
- Lack of curfew in returning offenders to the Centre would provide a more flexible holding place than cells in police stations or courts, benefiting the District Court decision making process.
- Closer connections between supporting agencies would enable better case management.

It is anticipated that as a result of the additions there is likely to be minimal impact on the Court operations, particularly given the coordinated efforts and level of communication currently undertaken between supporting agencies, allowing for effective case management.

5.6 Effect on Health Services

Justice Health provides health services to the Centre currently, employing medical, nursing and allied health staff. It is noted that as a result of the expansion a number of additional medical facilities will be upgraded on site, including the provision of medically secure accommodation, clinic expansion, and a new satellite and methadone clinic.

Patients entering the correctional system tend to be more complex and at the resistive end of the treatment spectrum than those accessing broader drug and alcohol programs. As a result, the drug and alcohol service provided by Justice Health is an essential aspect of the healthcare delivery for inmates.

5.6.1 Effect on Hospital Services

Public hospitals are used to treat inmates for medical emergencies. It is understood that the transfer of inmates from the Centre is likely to be to the Shoalhaven Memorial Hospital, being the nearest acute care hospital, approximately 7km from the Centre. In non-emergency cases,

inmates requiring hospital treatment are transferred to the DCS Long Bay facility by way of an escort vehicle.

Whilst Justice Health provides the majority of health services for inmates throughout the justice system it is understood that there could be a number of presentations each year to the Shoalhaven Memorial Hospital with currently no safe assessment rooms or transit lounges available at the Hospital and it is likely that patients are managed through guard supervision.

The increase in inmates at the Centre is likely to have an impact on the local area health services. It is likely there will be 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 Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health Service providers.

This 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 Shoalhaven Memorial Hospital is unknown at this stage, appropriate management of the impacts will be undertaken with the coordinated response by both NSW Justice Health and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health Service. Any short term impacts as a result of the increase could be addressed and managed through the development of a health reference group, established for the Local Health District health services.

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 Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health Service District upon release it is considered appropriate to maintain dialogue 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.

5.7 Effect on Educational and Child Care Services

The overall impact on education and child care services is expected to be minimal, given the limited in-migration of inmate's families and staff with young children who will relocate to the area.

The additions to the Centre could result in some additional enrolments at schools in the area 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. It is recommended that the Prison Servicing Interagency Meeting liaise with the Department of Education allocating discussion time to the impact on local schools and education facilities as a result of the expansion. These impacts could relate not only to increases in number of enrolments but also to the provision of maintenance service provision as a result in additional capacity for inmates on work release programs.

It is anticipated that the Care for Kids Centre on site will continue to provide services to visitors.

5.7.1 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 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.

5.8 Effect on the Indigenous Community

The Centre is located within the Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council Area. The Council functions include the provision of housing for Aborigines in the Council's area, and to project and foster the interests of members and all Aboriginal people within the Council's area.

With the social profile of the Indigenous population of the area characterised by disadvantage, low incomes and high levels of unemployment it was originally considered the opening of the Centre would provide a positive benefit to the Indigenous community, providing employment as well as allowing families to be closer to incarcerated relatives.

5.8.1 Effect on Indigenous Employment Opportunities

As envisaged with the original construction of the Centre it was recommended that employment opportunities for the local Indigenous community be maximised during construction and operation of the Centre. It is again recommended, with the expansion of the Centre, that an

Aboriginal Employment Strategy Committee be established to develop programs to assist with the registering and employment of Aboriginal community members for jobs that they may be suited to with the construction of the additions.

The construction of the new additions could again provide employment opportunities for Indigenous people in the local area and can satisfy the requirements under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines.

5.9 Effect on Community, Welfare and Charitable Services

Support services with the potential to most likely be affected by the Centre were anticipated to be those providing welfare and charitable services. As is the case with most communities of high need it was found that in 2007 (the time of the initial investigations in the establishment of the new Centre) a number of services in Nowra were stretched and unable to cater for the demands of the local community.

It was indicated at the time that St Vincent de Paul was the largest provider of charitable services in the area and there was uncertainty as to whether they would be able to cater for the anticipated increase in demand created by the Centre.

Given the majority of welfare, charitable and community services were closed on weekends it was anticipated that there would be a low number of requests received in the Nowra area. It was concluded that the presence of the Centre would have an impact on some local service providers and welfare agencies to varying degrees however, it was recommended consultation be conducted with key agencies during construction and operational phases to ensure the impacts are managed.

Given the establishment of the Prison Servicing Interagency Meetings, understood to be attended by community, welfare and charitable services, it is understood that the impacts of the opening of the Centre have been monitored and addressed and that due to the ongoing arrangements of the group that any additional impacts that arise as a result of the additional inmates and expansion to the Centre, can be effectively managed through coordinated efforts of key agencies, to help determine ways to mitigate any negative impacts.

5.10 Effect on Drug and Alcohol Service

Whilst the impact on local services was considered with the establishment of the Centre it is noted that the Centre has its own program to help offender's manage addiction with detoxification units for inmates with all drug and alcohol services for inmates provided by the Department of Justice. This minimises the impact on external drug and alcohol service providers in the Shoalhaven area.

With the new initiatives of Justice Health to manage the impacts of the expansion of Centre within the region it is recommended that discussion of ongoing drug and alcohol addiction needs of inmates as well as those upon release are considered in management of service provision within the local area.

6. 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 60 workers on-site during the peak of the construction phase.

Findings of the initial SEIA assessment (2007) estimated that the introduction of the Centre was not likely to have an impact on development and new business activity within the region. The trend analysis identified below reveals this was the case and therefore any additions to the Centre are unlikely to stall future economic growth in the region.

6.1 General Employment Trends

Nowra-Bomaderry serves as the economic hub of the Shoalhaven LGA. During the period 2006-2011 total workforce in the Shoalhaven grew by 7.12% and in the Nowra Suburb by 5.8% while employment in Australia as a whole grew by 10.48%. In 2006 the Council projected employment was likely to continue to grow rapidly in Shoalhaven and the Nowra Bomaderry region. The predicted employment growth has not only been consistent with the actual growth in the region, it has also not been affected by the opening of the Centre in 2006.

In 2015 there was a recorded 7,031 local businesses in operation within the Shoalhaven LGA with more than a fifth operating in the Nowra CBD (Nowra CBD Master Plan, 2013). It is believed that this growth in businesses has been due to strong population growth coupled with Council's focus on economic development. Defence, tourism, manufacturing, government services, agriculture, education and health represent the core income generating economic activities for the Shoalhaven (Shoalhaven Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2023, 2013).

Council's economic development website identifies future growth areas of the Shoalhaven economy entail logistics, education, retail, and tourism sectors.

The Shoalhaven boasts regional centres such as Nowra and Ulladulla which, attract investment opportunities at a lower cost in comparison to Sydney. Yet the Shoalhaven is still equipped with the necessary business enabling services including communication and broadband, and only being 2 hours from Sydney allowing access into a substantial global market.

The Department of Defence has a significant presence in the region, the largest being HMAS Albatross, to the South of Nowra.

Major regional projects in the Shoalhaven region currently underway include the Gerringong upgrade to the Princess Highway between Mount Pleasant and Tooolijooa Road and the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade. These improvements will assist in strengthening the road network in the Shoalhaven region, allowing for both increased economic activity and connecting regional centres.

The long term nature of the Centre is such that it provides a stable level of employment in the LGA. The result of the additions will be an increase in the number of full time positions employed at the Centre, in areas such as custodial, industries, programs and administration positions.

In addition, it is anticipated that services to be 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, radiographer, and general practitioner.

6.2 Correctional Centre Expenditure

6.2.1 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 the Department of Corrective Services 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. DCS develops these contracts on a statewide 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.

It is recommended that the Centre works with the appointed Community Consultative Committee to ensure that local businesses are provided every opportunity to supply and service the Centre.

6.3 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.

There has been no indication that property and land values have decreased as a result of the opening of the Centre in 2010. Trends in property pricing show that there has been an increase in median sales price for all dwellings over the last 8 years with the Shoalhaven LGA (2007 median: \$317,000 and 2015 median: \$420,000), with an annual increase of 12.0 recorded in December 2015.

Table 6-1 Median Sale Prices - Shoalhaven LGA - all dwellings

Year	Change in Median		
	Median \$'000s	Qtly %	Ann %
September 2009	318	4.1	5.8
December 2015	420	1.2	12.0

notes: (s) 30 or less bonds lodged; (-) 10 or less bonds lodged; (n) not available due to small number
Data sourced from NSW Department Housing, Rental and Sales Reports, accessed August 2016.

Property trends have also shown that the presence of the established Centre has not impacted on property prices within Nowra with median property prices showing an upward trend since the establishment of the Centre²⁸.

As shown in table 6-2 below the establishment of the Centre has not seen a negative impact on the rental prices in the region with median weekly rents increasing for all dwelling types.

²⁸ Realestate.com.au, 2016, Median Property Price for Nowra, Annual trend 2008-2015.

Year	One Bedroom			Two Bedroom			Three Bedroom			Four + Bedroom		
	Median \$	Change Qtly %	Ann %	Median \$	Change Qtly %	Ann %	Median \$	Change Qtly %	Ann %	Median \$	Change Qtly %	Ann %
March 2016	200 s	n	n	285	1.8	5.6	345	1.5	4.5	420	2.4	5.0
December 2009	135	-3.6	0.0	200	2.6	5.3	250	0.0	6.4	300	0.0	3.4

Table 6-2 Median Weekly Rents - Shoalhaven LGA - all dwellings

notes: (s) 30 or less bonds lodged; (-) 10 or less bonds lodged; (n) not available due to small number
Data sourced from NSW Department Housing, Rental and Sales Reports, accessed August 2016.

7. Summary and Recommendations

7.1 Summary

The NSW Department of Justice proposes to add an additional new 160 bed maximum security accommodation and a new 200 bed minimum security facility to the South Coast Correctional Centre.

Originally built as a regional facility, providing inmate accommodation for men and women of minimum, medium and maximum security classification the Centre has been identified as one of a number of centres in NSW with capacity to expand to provide additional beds within the existing site, to cater for the estimated increase in prison population by 2036.

It is proposed that, pending approval, construction will commence in November 2016 and will be completed by the end of November 2018. Following completion of the construction the additional facilities are to be fully operational by January 2019.

As a result of the completion of the works additional staff are expected to be employed at the Centre and where possible a proportion of the new staff will be sourced from the Nowra region, providing an important pool for base grade custodial positions where they cannot be filled from within the DCS.

In addition to the accommodation buildings, the proposed development includes an expansion to include additional management accommodation, industries buildings, extension of the entry and visits areas as well as programs and health and officers post building. Additional car parking for both visitors and staff will be provided.

Previous studies of Correctional Centres in NSW have shown 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; and
- Increased demand for social and welfare services.

Despite these general concerns it has been found that the establishment of the Centre has not had a direct impact on crime rates nor has there been a significant impact on the provision of social and welfare services (TBC) since opening in 2010. Whilst inmates may remain in the area after release it is likely that the total number would be small, estimated to be inmates who were living in the area prior to incarceration and are unlikely to place additional strain on local service providers in the area.

The proactive management and coordination of services through the establishment of the Prison Servicing Interagency Meeting providing a regular forum for the exchange of issues and ideas in response to the management and operation of the service providers in connection with the Centre, has resulted in successful integration of services as well as improved case management of inmates and those who are near release.

Overall it is expected that, following the completion of the additions:

- The incidence of families moving to the local area will remain low;
- The likelihood of released inmates (not previously residents of the region) remaining in the area will continue to be small and manageable;
- There will be a small impact on increased demand for services however these can be managed through ongoing communication and coordinated efforts between the Centre and service providers through the Prison Servicing Interagency Meetings;
- Potential exists for improved benefits for the Indigenous community.

The social benefits of the proposed expansion include:

- Potential support for local charities through inmate work projects;
- Additional employment for local residents;
- Expansion of a stable industry.

The economic impact of the proposed expansion 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.

7.2 Recommendations

The following actions are recommended in relation to:

- Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders;
- Minimising the potential negative social impacts, particularly in relation to housing and community facility and welfare needs related to the Centre as well as;
- Enhancement of the positive economic and social impacts of the Centre.

7.2.1 Ongoing consultation

Given NSW Justice is engaging with stakeholders regarding the expansion it is recommended the following key stakeholders are informed of the process with regular updates as to the outcomes and strategies adopted to manage any arising impacts:

- NSW Department of Housing (Nowra Office)
- Nowra Community Corrections Office
- South Coast Correctional Centre
- Shoalhaven City Council
- NSW Police, Shoalhaven Local Area Command, Crime Prevention Officers
- Education providers (including Illawarra Institute of TAFE and Wollongong University)
- Salvation Army – Bridge Program
- Drug and Alcohol Community Adult Team – Nowra Office
- Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital
- Centrelink
- Local accommodation providers

7.2.2 Minimise potential negative impacts

(1) Impacts on safety and security.

- The re-establishment of the Community Consultative Committee to update an Emergency Management Plan and a 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 and local community groups, 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.

- Maintain existing partnerships with government and not for profit community services providers to assist in minimising the impact of the correctional centre, to facilitate the integration of service delivery.
- Maintain the streamlined approach with social service providers to clearly articulate their policies on service provision, and procedures with local service providers to maximise work opportunities.
- The 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 Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health Service to ensure any issues that arise following the expansion of the Centre are addressed with both short and long term solutions.

(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.

7.2.3 Maximise Positive Economic and Social Impacts

(1) The 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.
 - Community Consultative Committee will be re-established and to establish communication 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.

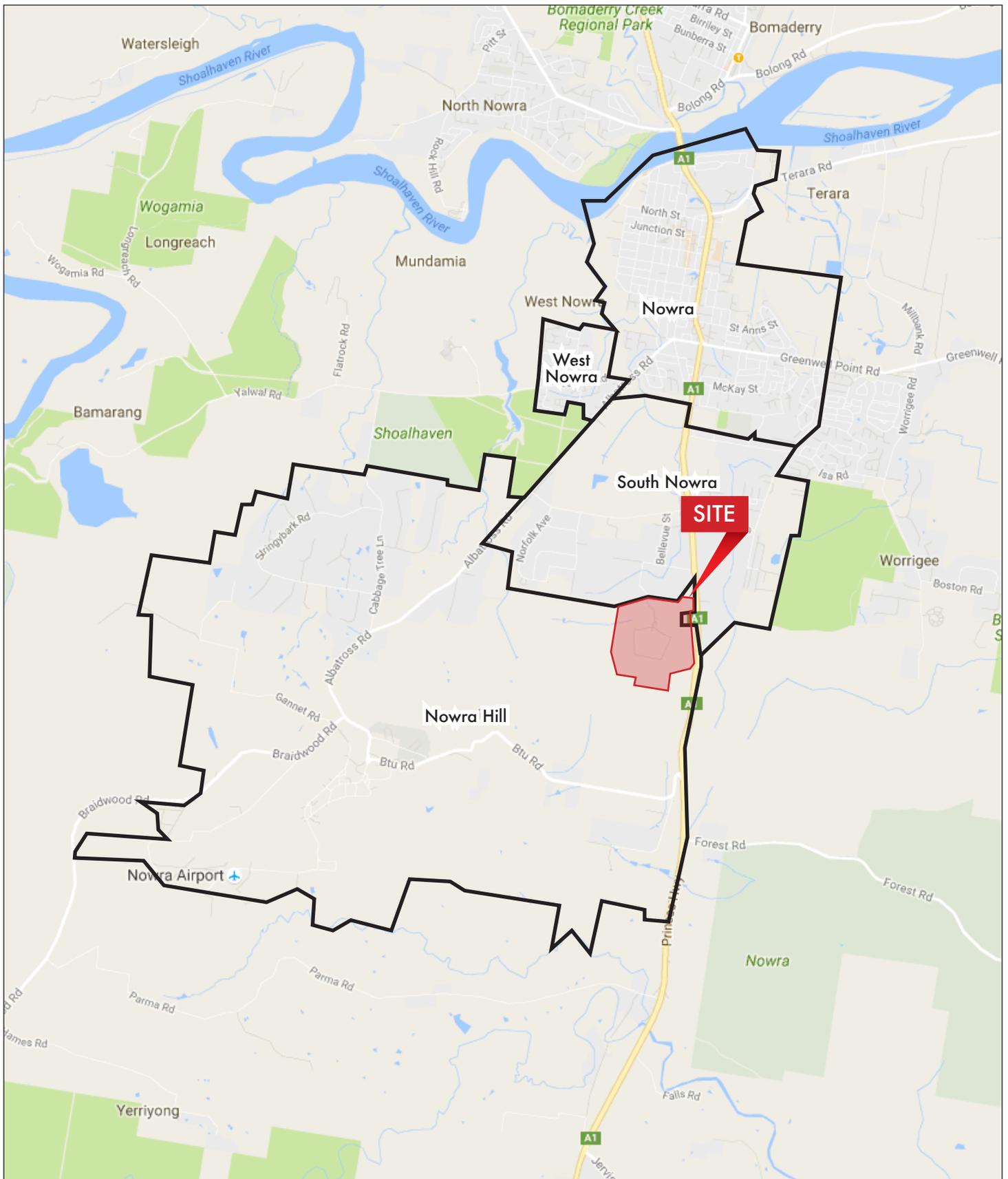


APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1

Local Area Context Maps



Source: <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT
 South Coast Correctional Centre - 55 The Links Road, South Nowra

FIGURE 2A
 Location of Site in Context of Surrounding Suburbs - Street View

Prepared For - Guymer Bailey Architects



Source: <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT
South Coast Correctional Centre - 55 The Links Road, South Nowra

FIGURE 2B
Location of Site in Context of Surrounding Suburbs - Aerial View

Prepared For - Guymer Bailey Architects



APPENDIX 2

Demographic Summary

	Nowra (SS)		South Nowra (SS)		Nowra Hill (SS)		West Nowra (SS)		Nowra (SA2)		Shoalhaven (LGA)		Illawarra (SA4)		New South Wales (State)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%

*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.

** Comprises languages not identified individually, 'Inadequately described' and 'Non Verbal, so described.

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
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.