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Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

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-6 AUG 2026

Mr Mark Shelton MP
Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

By email: C\ - haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr. ~~Shelton~~ *Mark*

In the House of Assembly, you asked the following question:

The Tasmanian Government has announced its intention to repurpose the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site into a minimum-security adult prison. You have stated that the Government will consult with the local community to ensure they are kept informed. My constituent would like to know what form this consultation will take and how will the community be able to participate in that communication?

Answer:

The Government intends to repurpose the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site into a minimum-security adult prison, alongside an agriculture-based rehabilitation and training facility. This transition to the Department of Justice will occur once the site is vacated by the Department for Education, Children and Young People.

The facility is expected to accommodate approximately 40 minimum-security prisoners within the existing footprint, with the opportunity to utilise the surrounding farmland to deliver hands-on agricultural training and employment pathways.

Consultation

The Tasmanian Government is delivering on its plan to begin preliminary consultation on repurposing AYDC into a new adult minimum-security prison.

I have already met with the Meander Valley Council as well as several of the immediate residents to the AYDC facility, and I further intend to continue meeting with the local residents as the Government plans for the transfer of the facility to the Department of Justice, in 2029.

A dedicated website is now live to support formal community consultation as planning progresses, providing Tasmanians with the opportunity to access information, provide feedback and have their say.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation