

Casuarina Prison

Purposes:

- Casuarina was established as the state's maximum-security facility for sentenced prisoners. As a state facility it also provides an infirmary, the special handling unit, protection, special protection and additional management unit capacity. It was also intended to be an industrial prison able to provide meaningful work, education and training, and as the base for intensive offender programs.

Capacity Information & crowding measures

Design standard capacity	496
Modified standard capacity	995
Special beds	38
Total capacity	1,033
Compliant standard beds	216
Count: 30 June 2016	943
Increase over 12 months	20.1%
Unused modified capacity	52
Utilisation of modified capacity	94.8%
Utilisation of design capacity	190.1%
Compliant beds over 2016 count	22.9%

Key overcrowding issues:

- Burgeoning remand numbers in the system are such that Casuarina has at times accommodated more remandees than sentenced prisoners. Visits and video link are both inadequate for such remand numbers.
- Showers and common areas are crowded as most wings are double-bunked. Loss of privacy, lack of amenity, and safety issues in unit for prisoners. The kitchen is struggling to produce food for the numbers accommodated.
- Overcrowding also severely restrains the flexibility needed for the facility to safely and equitably manage different prisoner cohorts and to respond to their particular needs and behaviours.
- Unemployment and underemployment has increased markedly with more prisoners having to be managed in units during the day. Education and training is good, but also limited in reach.
- Program provision is also good, but inability by some to complete required offender programs affects their ability to progress to lower security setting and reduces their prospects for parole, which in turn inflates the need for custodial accommodation.