

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT NO 124: 2019 INSPECTION OF PARDELUP PRISON FARM

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2019

Pardelup Prison Farm provides the prison system in WA with great opportunities for rehabilitation, which can have lasting impacts on the prisoners, their families and the community as a whole, according to Inspector of Custodial Services Eamon Ryan.

Mr Ryan said the findings contained in the report of the latest inspection of Pardelup released today, shows a highly performing prison that continues to offer positive opportunities for the prisoners who reside there.

‘Some of the credit for the success we have seen goes to its unique environment, but the work of management, staff and prisoners in both the prison and work camp deserves the most recognition’ Mr Ryan said.

‘And success is driven by a clear and coherent philosophy that is understood and supported by all staff, which fosters a strong sense of community within the prison.’

Mr Ryan supported the many positive benefits for the prison and community more generally in having facilities like Pardelup, and its satellite Walpole Work Camp, operating as part of the corrections system in WA.

‘A huge positive is that Pardelup maintains a strong relationship with the local communities around Mount Barker and in Walpole. This provides a valuable service to the local community, and excellent reintegration for prisoners who feel included in those communities’ Mr Ryan said.

While findings from the inspection were overwhelmingly positive, Pardelup had faced some challenges in the three years since the last inspection.

Instability and uncertainty surrounding key senior management positions in the previous 12 months had caused some operational difficulties. Positively, in the months after our inspection, permanent appointments were made to all senior management positions, providing consistency for the prison moving forward.

Mr Ryan said another ongoing issue was the lack of investment put back into the farm operation by the Department of Justice, given its key role in supplying food to the prison system throughout WA.

‘The combined value of the farm and market garden operations to the Department was significant. Despite this, Pardelup continually battled to get approval to invest in the farm and gardens. This could only encourage improvement and innovation to ultimately increase future production and revenue’ Mr Ryan said.

He said it was therefore disappointing that the Department did not accept a recommendation to allow for more investment back into the farm.

Eamon Ryan
Inspector of Custodial Services

For further media information:

The Inspector, Mr Eamon Ryan, will be available for comment from 12 noon on Tuesday 26 November 2019 and can be contacted on 0421 480 925.