



Tuesday, 12 July, 2022

John Pickering ACM General Manager,  
Patrick Blake Acting Superintendent Southern Remand Centre,  
Department of Justice  
Email: [John.Pickering@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:John.Pickering@justice.tas.gov.au),  
[Patrick.Blake@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:Patrick.Blake@justice.tas.gov.au)

Dear John and Patrick,

**Re: Introduction of inmates to the Southern Remand Centre**

I write to you today regarding various issues, members have raised with union representatives in relation to the new Southern Remand Centre and the introduction of inmates into that facility. Last week unions provided a list of WHS, operational and industrial concerns through the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting that needed to be addressed before inmates were introduced into the SRC.

These concerns have been previously raised with TPS management through delegates and members on the ground, however as these had yet to be addressed, unions then escalated these through the JCC as has been the agreed process with raising operational matters.

Members have advised that the following WHS issues are still yet to be addressed and must be resolved immediately:

- Missing important safety equipment.
- Finalised Emergency response over lunch breaks.
- Multiple runs on all drills and routines so all staff will have experienced them more than once.
- Some entrances not being properly accessible for staff.

There are also various concerns around unfinalized operational documents to see the running of the facility is done in a safe and orderly manner:

- Operating Model, Short staffing strategy and Staffing Model has not been completed despite months of opportunity for this work to be completed before SRC becomes operational.
- The risk assessments and mitigations are not complete on the suite of hazards identified by the HSRs and staff.
- Consultation will also be required in these documents.

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Community & Public Sector Union, 157 Collins Street Hobart TAS 7000

There are also various Industrial issues that have yet to be addressed with the facility such as:

- Inmates not being locked down over Lunch breaks.
- A lack of staff amenities such as a lack of private dedicated mess room, lockers, and appropriate seating for staff.

Over the weekend Union delegates met with members to discuss these various matters that still haven't been addressed. During these discussions members advised that they were not supportive of inmates being introduced into the new facility until all these matters have been addressed and an agreed way forward with union representatives is sought.

Although members are supportive of the new facility as a concept, they are not confident that their health and safety has been adequately considered and therefore feel it is unsafe to proceed. The CPSU will never compromise on the safety of its members.

We request to meet with you as a matter of urgency to further discuss these matters, timeframes around resolution of these issues and or gain a report back from TPS management on how they have addressed these matters before any inmates are introduced into the facility.

We look forward to your response and ask that it be provided by no later than Friday 15 July 2022.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. White'.

**Thirza White**

General Secretary  
Community and Public Sector Union  
State Public Services Federation