

# 2018-19 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Gayle Tierney MLC  
Minister for Corrections

## 2018-19 Budget Initiatives

Total investment of **\$787.6 million** in the corrections portfolio:

- **Lara Prison Precinct expansion** – \$689m asset
- **Prison system capacity expansion and security upgrades** – \$68m output, \$22.8m asset
- **Promote offender wellbeing and reintegration to reduce reoffending** – \$4m output
- **Implementing counter-terrorism reforms** – \$2m output.

# Reform

- Management of **serious offenders** and **parolees**
- Focus on **rehabilitation** and **recidivism**
- Prison **capacity expansion** to reduce overcrowding
- Safer, secure prisons and overhauled community corrections scheme
- Supporting the whole of government **family violence reforms**
- Significant **legislative reform agenda** including new post-sentence legislation, Australia's first anti-drone legislation, denying parole for police murderers, new contraband offences

# Corrections System Performance

Performance Indicators	2011-2014	2015-2018
<b>Prisoner-Staff Ratio</b>	Peaked in 2012/13 @ <b>1.8 prisoners per staff member</b>	Reduced every financial year <b>Down to 1.4</b> in 2016/17
<b>Offender-Staff Ratio</b> (Community Corrections)	Peaked in 2014/15 @ <b>16.3 offenders per staff member</b>	Reduced every financial year <b>Down to 13.1</b> in 2016/17
<b>Prison Recidivism Rate</b>	Grew from <b>35.1%</b> in 2011/12 to <b>44.1%</b> in 14/15	Reduced from <b>44.1%</b> in 14/15 to <b>42%</b> in 17/18 (expected)
<b>Offence Rate</b> <sup>1</sup> (offences per 100 prisoners)	Peaked in 2013 @ <b>22.0 offences per 100 prisoners</b>	Lower each year than 2013 Down to <b>20.3</b> in 2017
<b>Assault Rate</b> <sup>1</sup>	Peaked in 2013 @ <b>14.3 offences per 100 prisoners</b>	Reduced every year since 2015 Down to <b>7.6</b> offences in 2017
<b>Prison Upgrades</b>	<b>\$523m</b>	<b>\$1,112m</b>
<b>Prison Occupancy</b>	Peaked in 2013 at <b>96.8%</b>	Currently below <b>90%</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Escape Rate</b> (per 100 prisoners in open prisons)	Peaked in 2013/14 at <b>0.77 escapes</b> per 100 prisoners	Lower each year than 2013/14 <b>Down to 0.22 escapes per 100</b> <b>prisoners</b>

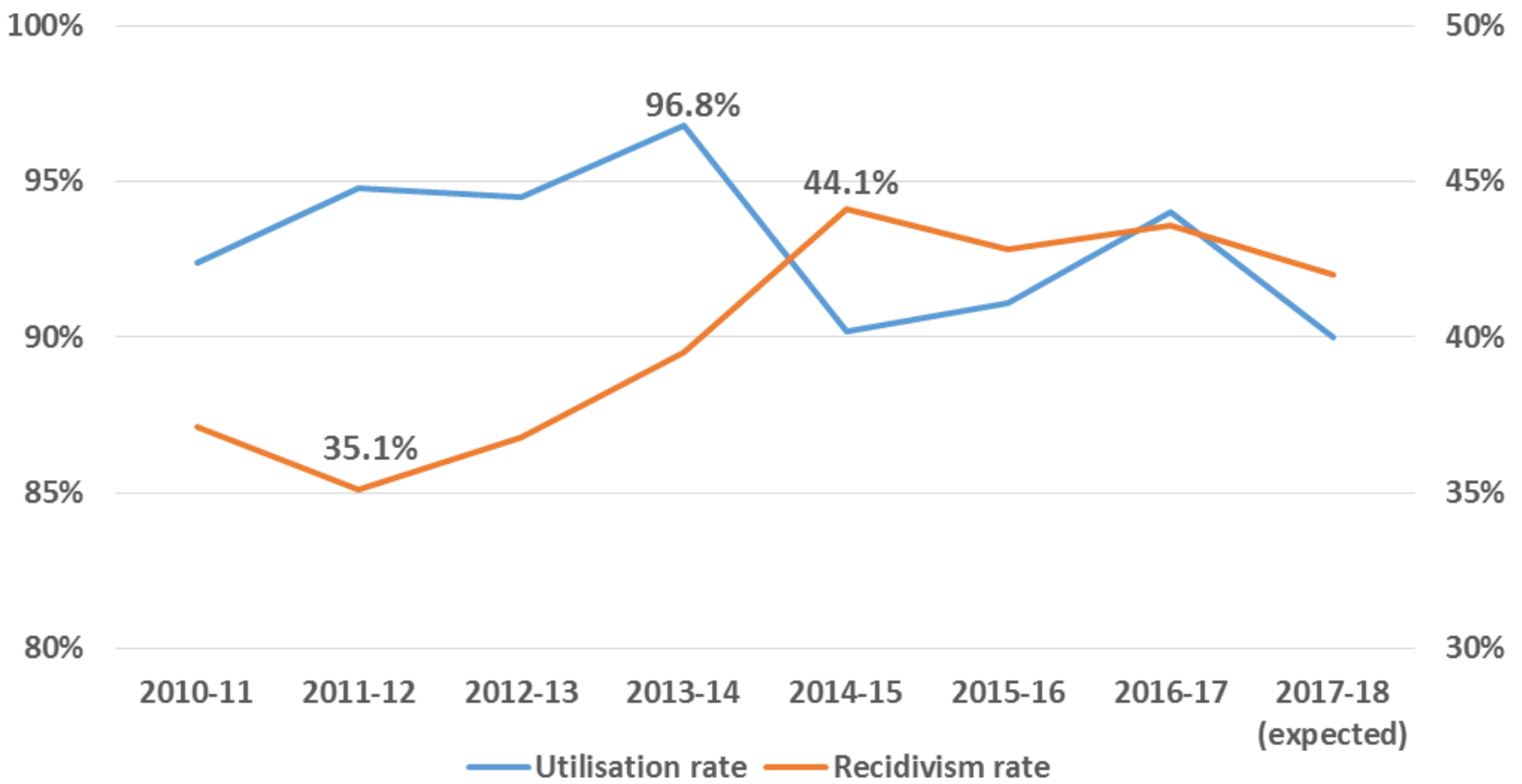
<sup>1</sup> Based on recorded offences at prison address (source: Crime Statistics Agency Recorded Crime data)

<sup>2</sup> Total mainstream/protection utilisation rate was 87.4% as at 4 May 2018

# Corrections System Performance

- 2013/14 - Failure to manage demand
  - Reliance on temporary accommodation, such as mattresses and bunks, resulting in overcrowding
  - Compromise on ideal prisoner placement
  - Leads to more assaults and other incidents, impacting on rehabilitative efforts.

# Capacity and Recidivism



# Managing Demand, Rehabilitating Prisoners

- Proper planning, good government
  - around 1900 beds opened across the system
  - Funding over 1200 beds to open into the future, including 700 bed prison to be built at Lara.
- Ensuring the system is prepared for population growth
  - Prisons are safer for staff and prisoners.
  - Focussed on rehabilitation, driving down recidivism.
  - Contributing to a safer community.