

Comment on the Auckland Prison Capacity Increase Project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)			
First name	PAUL		
Last name	DENNY		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	[REDACTED]
Email (<i>a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you</i>)	[REDACTED]		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
☒	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Please provide your comments below, include additional pages as needed.

Regarding: Auckland Prison Capacity Increase Application – Lighting Conditions (DES14)

Reason for Submission and Context

As a resident at [REDACTED], my property's boundary sits roughly 200 metres from the Auckland Prison site. Because light travels over open rural land and across local ridge lines, our home experiences direct line-of-sight glare and light pollution from the facility. I am submitting to formally reject the Department of Corrections' proposed email amendment to Condition DES14A regarding "redundant" lighting, and to replace it with a comprehensive, enforceable legacy audit condition. (Corrections email is included below).

Inadequacy of the Department's Proposed Wording

The Department's proposed text states that lighting will only be removed if it *"becomes redundant... when new prison facilities are established."* This wording is highly subjective, legally vague, and creates an unacceptable loophole:

1. **No Obligation to Upgrade:** Under this clause, Corrections is under no obligation to replace poorly designed, high-glare legacy infrastructure that remains operational. If a new facility is built alongside older structures, the existing non-compliant lighting can remain active indefinitely simply because Corrections deems it "not redundant."
2. **Failure to Minimise Cumulative Effects:** While seeking a massive capacity increase to 1,200 inmates, the Department has completely failed to justify why it will not fix its legacy lighting footprint. Overriding the previously mandated prison capacity limits should require a reciprocal commitment the local community to modern environmental stewardship.

Relief Sought

To protect the distinct night-sky character and residential amenity of this **Rural Coastal district**, a systematic and enforceable plan must be integrated into the designation to eliminate ongoing light pollution. I ask the expert panel to reject the Department's text and instead adopt the revised **Condition DES14A** detailed below. This condition establishes a definitive framework for an independent audit, ensuring that any fixture—legacy or new—causing obtrusive light spill or glare within a **one kilometre radius** of a residential dwelling is physically retrofitted with shielded, warm-spectrum LED infrastructure.

DES14A: Legacy Lighting Audit and Remediation

(a) Within twelve months of this designation alteration being confirmed, the Requiring Authority must commission a comprehensive independent lighting audit of all existing legacy exterior lighting across the entire Auckland Prison designation site (Designation 3900)—including lighting structures not physically modified by the current capacity increase works.

(b) The audit must assess compliance against the Auckland Unitary Plan Chapter E24 Lighting Standards for Rural Coastal zones.

(c) Any legacy infrastructure found to exceed the permissible luminous intensity (500 candelas) or obtrusive light spill thresholds at the boundary of any residential property, or at the facade of any dwelling located within a one kilometre radius of any Auckland Prison external light source, must be physically retrofitted, baffled, or replaced with modern, fully-shielded, down-facing LED fixtures (<3000K).

(d) These works must be delivered as part of a phased site-wide Lighting Management Plan, to be fully completed within five years of the confirmation date.

----- Email message from corrections -----

From: Jaimee Cannon <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, 23 Jul 2026 at 08:05
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Outcomes of Meeting (16 July 2026) - Lighting matters update
To: ERSKINE, Craig (PONEKE) <[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Dr Helen Denny <[REDACTED]>, AP Engagement <[REDACTED]>, HURRELL, Philippa (PONEKE) <[REDACTED]>

Kia ora Paul

An update on the lighting matters, Corrections lighting engineer has now assessed the proposal from the agreed viewpoint further up Sanders Road. The readings at this location were generally consistent with the readings taken at other viewpoint locations taken from Merewhira Road however it was noted that the existing lighting is more visible from this upper Sanders Road location when compared to location 14 (at the Sanders Road south gate). As Craig mentioned he is catching up with Auckland Prison site staff regarding the flashing lights / general condition of existing lighting this week.

As discussed with you, Corrections will now also propose a new designation condition to ensure that existing redundant lighting is removed when new prison facilities are established as follows (or similar):

DES14A	<i>Any exterior lighting on Auckland Prison site that existed as at [date the designation alteration is confirmed] and becomes redundant when new prison facilities are established (i.e. lighting is no longer required for safety, security, operational purposes) shall be removed within 1 month of the lighting becoming redundant.</i>
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Can you please confirm if this new condition satisfies your concerns, or if you have any further suggested amendments on these matters?

We will then formalise this new condition as part of the Section 55 Report when Corrections formally responses to the comments on the application (due back with Expert panel on 4 August)

Thanks
Jaimee

