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PARKLEA PRISON TO REMAIN PUBLIC

The Legislative Council Committee Report tabled today supports the retention of Parklea Prison as public. It calls for continuing negotiation between the prison officers union and the Department to bring in cost savings rather than privatising the prison. That is what the union had been offering” said JA spokesperson Brett Collins.

“This represents a total victory for the community and organisations, which stood together providing 442 submissions against the multinationals’ eleven. The Committee’s comments on the principles of privatisation were to be expected considering the participants, but the absolute opposition by those affected made any sale impossible to implement” said JA Coordinator Michael Poynder.

“The Report is a resounding criticism of the management of Corrective Services, failing in its core function by having the highest recidivist rate in Australia, explicitly withdrawing from responsibility for correcting those entrusted to it, and now wishing to pass that off to overseas corporations” said Colin Drane, Convenor of the Sydney Power to the People Campaign against Privatisation.

“We call upon the Rees Government to start the process of reconciliation, to reinstate the position of Inspector General and to establish the Prisons Parliamentary Oversight Committee as recommended. Commissioner Woodham has clearly lost the confidence of the Parliament in addition to all those involved in the prison system. If he doesn’t resign he must be sacked” said Mr Collins.

Comments: Brett Collins 0438 705003

Michael Poynder 0401 371077

Colin Drane 041 969-8396