

Public Meeting: Tasmanian Government's Northern Regional Prison Proposal – 11 August 2021

Submissions Received – Revised & Released as at 18 August 2021

Meander Valley Council received 86 submissions from the community, including 2 generally in support of the proposal and 84 generally against.

Below is a summary of the key points expressed in each submission. All submissions will be tabled in full at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 14 September 2021.

Name	Summary of submission
Tom and Kath Lockhart Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicated they won't be attending the public meeting due to the aggressive nature of the last meeting on the proposed prison. • Believe the Government should have stayed with the original site proposed for the prison. • Believe the project would be good for Westbury in many ways.
Ron Nagorcka Birralee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that Birralee Road is already narrow and dangerous and traffic issues will be exacerbated by a large scale development. • Concerned about the possible destruction of the Brushy Rivulet Reserve and describes the area as a bio-diversity hotspot.
Susan Hartam Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many experts have said Westbury is not the right place for a northern prison and they should be listened to. • The planning decision will be dependent on decisions made by nine Meander Valley Councillors and they are obliged to consult and be accountable to its community under the Local Government Act. • The reserve is important to protect and houses many native plants and animals.
Diana Stokes Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land being considered for the proposed prison is habitat for birds, animals, plants, trees, insects – many are already endangered species. • Highlights the importance of providing training and education to prisoners away from towns and villages. • Sending people to prison only exacerbates their anger, pain and frustration.
Dr Gil Stokes Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes a clear statement from Council on its position and the basis for this position is missing. • Wants Council to advise what Council and planning staff will outline as they key issues for Councillors to consider. • Thanks Council for seeking community input to the meeting.
Mrs S. Scott-Smith Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes the process has been flawed from the beginning. • Has many questions including who will run the prison, where is the water going to come from, where is the sewerage going to go. • States a belief that no in depth studies have been conducted on the long term social, economic and tourist impacts on the community.
Sean Manners Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the flora and fauna present at the Brushy Rivulet Forest Reserve including many species of mammals, birds, marsupials, invertebrates, frogs, plants and fungi. • Some, such as the Masked Owl, Wedge tailed Eagle, Tasmanian devil, and Green and Gold Frog are listed as endangered or vulnerable under the Threatened Species Act.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that light pollution from the prison will cause decimation of many animals. • Council should have held a public meeting early on in the process. • Concerned about emissions from the prison, the cost of running services to the prison, whether the Westbury sewage treatment works will cope with the extra demand.
<p>Amanda Manners (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes there has been a lack of consultation with the residents of Westbury. • Asks why it has taken numerous attempts to get a public meeting with Council. • States the proposed site is a designated native reserve and home to threatened flora and fauna. • Concerned about the impact of increased traffic flow on Birralee Road, stating the road has been the site of many accidents.
<p>John Hawkins Chudleigh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tasmanian Government has failed to comprehend the problem created by the decision to build the prison in Westbury. • Requested the meeting is given time to debate a motion requesting that the Integrity Commission investigate the actions of the State Government and the Meander Valley Council regarding the involvement over the first proposed site for the prison and the initial EOI process. • Wants the meeting to vote that the second proposed site should be quashed and the meeting resolves to call upon the Meander Valley Council to support this action.
<p>Andrew Ricketts Reedy Marsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that a significant percentage of an informal conservation Reserve known as Marney's Hill Reserve, will be destroyed for the purpose of establishing a Northern prison. • Concerned about lack of consultation on the prison proposal. • Has put forward a number of motions for the meeting around concerns over the impact of the proposal on native species and that the project doesn't meet Council's Strategic Plan in a number of key areas.
<p>Anonymous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes Risdon Prison is a failure so asks whether a Northern prison will fare better. • Is concerned about the 'revolving prison door' phenomenon and the affect the prison will have on the local Westbury area. • Expresses concerns about Tasmania's parole system and Westbury residents potentially interacting with criminals.
<p>Bruce Pepper Secretary, Westbury Shooting Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like an assurance that locating the proposed Northern Prison in Westbury will not impact on its Range or club activities/operations. • Expressed some concern that local farmers, who may be members or require their firearms for vermin control, crop protection or hunting may be impacted by the proposal.

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<p>Cheryl Hendley Rosevale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes there are plans to close Risdon Prison and have Tasmania's only maximum security prison in the Meander Valley. • Tasmania cannot afford the cost of running two prisons. • Is concerned the prison would bring social problems, destroy the rural charm of Westbury, impact on tourism and deter families from settling there.
<p>Mrs D.M. Wileman Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objects to the prison proposal primarily on the grounds of the process used by the Tasmanian Government in selecting the current and former site. • There was no consultation with the public on the proposal prior to the announcement made by the Tasmanian Government and Meander Valley Council. • Raised concerns about the EOI process. • Lack of consultation with residents has led to suspicion, disrespect and frustration.
<p>David Evelyn (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not necessarily against a prison itself but the process to its current chosen site. • The Government appeared to announce the original location with no real consultation, no other shortlist locations made public. • Reference to the site being a nature reserve. • Asks the Meander Valley Council to consider the effects on families and individuals.
<p>Martha McQueen Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Westbury Reserve remains the only site rich in old growth vegetation necessary for the preservation of a number of threatened species. • Concerned about the impact to native flora and fauna species if the proposed site for the prison was cleared.
<p>Rod McQueen Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marney's Hill Reserve is unique for its natural values, being less disturbed and thus more "natural" than any surrounding bushland areas. • Marney's Hill Reserve harbours numerous old gums with cavities. The reserve was, after all, purchased in 1999 with Federal funds for such reasons. • Believes building a maximum security prison anywhere within the municipality would be a mistake for various reasons, but particularly asks that the Marney's Hill Reserve be removed from consideration.
<p>Peter Wileman Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of building another prison, the Government should try to solve poverty, poor education, homelessness, substance abuse and family violence. • The entire project has been dogged with undemocratic controversy. • Tasmanians can't afford two prisons and the State Government can't staff the one they have. • Questions why Lyons was chosen at the preferred electorate to build the prison and not Bass or Braddon.

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<p>Philip Milner Spreyton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the environmental impacts of a prison being sited and developed at Brushy Rivulet Reserve. • It is important that all remaining remnants of Grassy Forest and Woodlands in Tasmania are retained and protected for their biodiversity and conservation values and this includes the Brushy Rivulet Reserve. • From an environmental impact aspect, the Brushy Rivulet Reserve is a most unsuitable and inappropriate location to develop a prison.
<p>Robert Bryant (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a prison near Westbury will bring an unwanted social culture and require a constant police presence. • Asks why the Government wants a prison at Westbury when other suburbs have the infrastructure in place already and are more suitably located. • Suggests Councillors are not being able to openly express their opinions on the proposal.
<p>Robert Read Central North Field Naturalists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referenced the rare native plants present at the Brushy Rivulet Reserve. • The reserve is an important breeding area for native birds. • If a high security prison in the north is needed, there are plenty of other cleared sites with no natural values that could be used for this purpose.
<p>Eve Robson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urged Council to stop the proposed prison from being built in Westbury. • Council applied to have the prison without asking people. • There is a growing split in the town over the prison and Council needs to fix this. • The Council should either make it clear to the State Government that residents don't want the prison or hire a respectable survey company to ask people how they feel about the proposal.
<p>Ian Robson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objects to the proposal to build a maximum security prison in the Meander Valley primarily on the grounds of the process used by the Tasmanian Government in selecting the former and current site. • There was no consultation with the public on the proposal prior to the announcement made. • Disappointed with the consultation that followed. • Expressed concerns about the EOI process. • Would like to see council rezone Marneys Hill to protect it. • The lack of consultation with residents has led to suspicion, disrespect and frustration.
<p>Mark Westfield East Launceston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land on which the prison is proposed to be built was purchased in 1999 using federal government funds from the Telstra privatisation with the objective that it would be preserved to enable threatened species to survive. • Under the agreement, it is only deemed to be the property of the Tasmanian Government if it is retained as a reserve. • The Tasmanian Government doesn't own the land, it has no title over the land so can't build the prison there.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prison would be too close to Westbury and would degrade the town. • There is no power, water, sewerage connection or suitable road servicing at the site. • It's highly unlikely that Westbury will get any economic benefit from the prison. • There is as concern that Risdon Prison will be closed and the northern prison would be the State's main prison. • There are more suitable sites for the prison. • Threatened species live in the reserve and would not likely survive the destruction of their environment.
<p>James Hattam Tasmanian Land Conservancy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed site for the prison should be conserved as originally intended through the Private Forest Reserve Program. • Brushy Rivulet has numerous natural values, including suitable habitat for a range of rare and threatened species. • The site was to be transferred to the TLC for conservation, but last year the TLC was verbally informed that the transfer would no longer transpire. • The TLC has not had any formal correspondence from DPIPW E on the matter.
<p>Pauline & Danny Ross (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wished to register for the public meeting to oppose the building of a maximum security prison in Westbury.
<p>Maria Saldana Liffey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accused Council of being dishonest and secretive in attempting to build a prison near Westbury. • Pointed to a lack of information and communication with ratepayers. • Claimed figures relating to the distance of the proposal from Westbury were misleading.
<p>Heather Donaldson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would prefer to see money spent on proper rehabilitation, drug and alcohol services, education and housing, to reduce recidivism, or on the health and mental health system, youth suicide prevention and homelessness. • Does not want to see Westbury changed from a quiet, peaceful, historic tourist village into a prison town. • Is also concerned about the damage being done to the community through this process. • Expressed disappointment in Council for lack of consultation. • There is no social license for this prison. The social costs are too high.
<p>Henry & Marjorie Burrows (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westbury has no workforce trained in prison management. • A high number of Westbury employment is taken up with approximately 5 or more industries already based here. Disagrees with the argument that locals can be trained up to work at the prison. • The region doesn't have the number of workers required which means they would be brought in and fundamentally change the community which has a rich historic and rural atmosphere. • Westbury is home to many new residents who wish to escape the fundamental changes that this development would bring.

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<p>Dorothy Matthews Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Government wants to build a prison in the north, then it should be located close to courts, hospitals, police, suppliers, ambulances, power and water and in an area that has a big population with a high number of the families of prisoners so they can visit the prisoners easily. • Why spoil a historic country town by making it known as the prison town. • There has been a lack of consultation by Council. • There should be a proper survey of residents on the proposal.
<p>Ann Deller Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Government wants to build a prison in the north, then it should be located close to courts, hospitals, police, suppliers, ambulances, power and water and in an area that has a big population with a high number of the families of prisoners so they can visit the prisoners easily. • Why spoil a historic country town by making it known as the prison town. • There has been a lack of consultation by Council. • There should be a proper survey of residents on the proposal.
<p>Valerie Stone Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concerns about building a prison on a bush corridor that allows native wildlife to move safely from habitat to habitat. • Concerned there was no independent socio-economic study into the impact of the proposal. • The results of any thorough consultation process should be made public. • Questions whether this prison would be managed better than Risdon Prison. • Rehabilitation and training for future incarceration should be on the agenda.
<p>Karen Mackenzie Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests that the Meander Valley Council reverse all of its support for the building of a Northern Prison in the Meander Valley. • No open consultation with the community of ratepayers and other residents has ever occurred. • What began as the support of the previous General Manager and a few Councillors for some sort of low level correctional facility near Ashley, has morphed into a maximum security Northern Prison. • Meander Valley Council should undertake a study into the economic, environmental, traffic and social impacts. • The Crown Land at Marney's Hill is inappropriate due to the presence of rare, vulnerable and endangered species. • A small historic village such as Westbury will be unable to absorb the impacts of such a large development. There will be long term impacts on the cultural fabric of such a small heritage village.
<p>Tim Stevenson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes a Northern Regional Prison should be built in the central north of Tasmania, near Westbury. • Risdon prison is currently near full capacity. • There is a need for a prison in the north of the state to allow inmates whose families reside in the north easier more regular access to help with eventual placement of released prisoners into their communities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Westbury area, being situated approximately in the centre of the north, has good access to the main east west highway, is an obvious choice. • The project will bring short and long term employment. • Workers with families who move to the area will give a boost to the community as demand lifts for schools, sporting facilities, cafes, and small business in general. • Notes negatives including tourism impact, lowered property prices and belief that the State Government has made an error in moving the proposed site to the Brushy Rivulet conservation area. Services such as electricity, gas, water, and sewerage are more readily available at the original site.
<p>Liza de Lautour (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks the Council to withdraw its support of the prison in the municipality. • Meander Valley Council didn't discuss the options of having the prison in the municipality in the first instance. • A maximum security prison will have a huge impact on the local and wider community, the community should be part of that decision making process. • Calls on Council to request that the State Government hold off on its development application for the prison until the Council can conduct and publish an independent socio-economic study into the impact of the prison.
<p>Graeme Brown East Devonport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong disapproval for the proposed maximum-security prison to be built on the site of the Brushy Creek Reserve. • This is an area found to have great bio-diversity of flora and fauna and was purchased with the specific objective of retaining its values for future generations of the native inhabitants and people so we won't lose these values.
<p>Timothy Scott Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests Council revoke any decisions about the current proposed prison site. • Current site unsuitable as it is not level, and has high fire risk with limited access for emergency services. • Land should be rezoned to protect wildlife and habitat.
<p>Julie Gee Exton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that Westbury will become a "ghetto" if a prison is located nearby. • A maximum security prison will bring high crime rates, violence, drugs, theft and other social implications. • The new prison will not give good opportunities for young people or rehabilitate prisoners. • The Meander Valley does not need saving; it one of the most economically sound municipalities in the state .
<p>Janine Brown East Devonport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to proposed gaol at Brushy Creek Reserve. • Concerned about negative impact on flora and fauna and as a wildlife corridor. • Concerned about impact on families (including farming families) in the area from lighting, traffic and noise pollution during and after construction.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about traffic, noise and negative impact for greater Westbury area, with loss of village appeal and possible loss of long-term residents.
<p>Annette Reed Selbourne (formerly of Westbury)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not support a prison at the current preferred site. Environmental and conservation value of site is valued by local community and Council should push for the site being used as a natural asset. Impact on Egmont Swimming hole 2km away, with reduced safety if prison visitors use it as a pull-over. Supportive of an Integrity Commission investigation into Council and the state government.
<p>Paul Loader Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not support a prison within the municipality. Concerned about not knowing about proposal until state government announcement (30 September 2019). Would like Council to overturn or withdraw past steps taken (2017 motion of support for prison near Ashley Detention Centre, and EOIs submitted by landowners). Seeks independent socio-economic study by Council before state government applications are lodged.
<p>Anne-Marie Loader Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about Council's role in EOI process and subsequent consultation. Would like Councillors to express public opinions. Wants Council to overturn or withdraw past steps taken (2017 motion of support for prison near Ashley Detention Centre, and EOIs submitted by landowners). Seeks Council consultation and independent socio-economic study before state government applications are lodged. Concerned about timing and process of public meeting.
<p>Rachael Mansfield Kingston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed to prison at Brushy Rivulet Reserve. Concerned about impact and reduced land values for local farms and residents. The site was set aside for conservation and should remain that way. A site in an industrial estate (including the previous preferred site) should be considered.
<p>Chris Donaldson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about social impact on Meander Valley if a new prison is built then doubles in size if it is amalgamated with Risdon Prison. Prison will generate little or no wealth overall and Meander Valley will become dependent on taxpayers' money. Would like to see serious discussion about long term aspects of proposal. Concerned that state government's social and economic impact statement from June 2020 was not independent.

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<p>Corey Cox Penguin (formerly of Westbury)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grew up in Westbury and opposed to a prison in the area, and its impact on locals. • Concerned about losing ability to hunt in the general area surrounding the proposed prison (note: not on the reserve itself).
<p>Kim Bishop Launceston</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to a prison at Brushy Rivulet Reserve. • Concern about lack of infrastructure at Brushy Rivulet site, and state government’s ability to run any prison effectively. • Safety issues – increased bushfire risk, and road safety concerns from increased vehicle movements on narrow road. • The site should be preserved for future generations as an essential wildlife corridor, and particularly as a habitat for wedge-tailed eagle and goshawks. • Concern about property values decreasing and impact on neighbours from noise and light pollution. • Impact on Egmont Swimming hole, with reduced safety if prison visitors use it as a pull-over. • Would like a rezoning for “environmental management”.
<p>Jenny Brown Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about lack of infrastructure at Brushy Rivulet site, and state government’s ability to run any prison effectively. • Safety issues – increased bushfire risk, and road safety concerns from increased vehicle movements on narrow road. • The site should be preserved for future generations as an essential wildlife corridor, and particularly as a habitat for wedge-tailed eagle and Tasmanian masked owls. • Concern about property values decreasing and impact on neighbours and the environment, from noise and light pollution. • Impact on Egmont Swimming hole, with reduced safety if prison visitors use it as a pull-over. • Concerns about reduced access to neighbouring property during prison lockdowns.
<p>Phillip Brown Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission identical in content to Jenny Brown (above).
<p>Sarah Lloyd OAM Birralee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed submission about specific natural values of Brushy Rivulet Reserve by a naturalist and ornithologist. • Not an appropriate site for a major development. • Environmental values of Brushy Rivulet Reserve are long recognised, including important flora and fauna species observed at the site • Importance of hollow-bearing trees and reserve (especially proposed ‘footprint’) as a botanical hotspot . • Concerns around environmental harm from pollution from noise and 24-hour bright lights, disturbances to watercourse, spread of weeds, and other impacts on bush birds (including breeding populations lost from nearby areas). • State government should embark on a new, open and transparent site selection process. • The reserve, and threatened species of flora and fauna present there, should be protected in perpetuity.

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<p>Frankcombe Family Birralee Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the sensitive natural values of the Brushy Rivulet Reserve and describes it as unfathomable why the site would be considered for a maximum security prison or any development at all. • The site has no services available and Birralee Road is narrow and dangerous. • Concern that Brushy Rivulet is located within a bushfire prone area and sensitive use should not be located in bushfire prone areas. • No consideration has been given to the extensive wildlife corridor or the preservation of endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals living on the site. • The proposed prison will impact upon the 500m buffer zone and the 1km line of sight around the Wedge-tailed Eagle nest. • Need to protect community use of Egmont Reserve. • Concerned the prison will decrease property values. • Concerned about the impact of the day-to-day operations on neighbouring properties. • Don't allow Brushy Rivulet Reserve and all its sensitive natural values to be decimated.
<p>Jane Kerr Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants Council to withdraw original motions for the prison and prepare its own independent social, environmental and economic studies. • Would like the land rezoned back to its original environmental management zoning. • Increased use of an already dangerous road. • Needs proper community consultation.
<p>Martin Hamilton Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses opposition to the prison proposal. • Concerned that all Expression of Interest submissions made by Mr Gill without Council's vote are undemocratic and call on Council to revoke any and all EOI's. • The selection of the first proposed prison site lacks probity and likely subject to potential corruption. • Concern the second proposed site was not part of the EOI process. • Construction of a prison on this site will destroy the habitat that contains more than 30 endangered or threatened species. • Urges Council to rezone the land to Environmental Management area in recognition of its natural values. • Requests Council write to Tasmanian Government and advise these is no community consensus for the proposed prison project and that Council will not support it either. • Requests Council moves a motion to refuse to assist the Tasmanian Government to find a site to 'offset' the damage the prison will cause. • Council is refusing to engage with the community over this project which has cause division of the Westbury community.
<p>Georgina Linnemann Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voicing concern that a maximum security prison built in close proximity to Westbury would condemn the area to become the correctional centre of Northern Tasmania. • Urges Council to withdraw support of the Northern Prison and withdraw the expressions of interest.

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<p>Dwayne & Lee-Ann Barwick Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the significant environmental value of the Brushy Rivulet Reserve and describes it as totally the wrong site for a maximum security prison or any development. • The site has no services available and Birralee Road is dangerous. • Concern that Brushy Rivulet is located within a bushfire prone area and sensitive use should not be located in bushfire prone areas. • Concerned about safety in the event of a fire at the prison. • No consideration has been given to the extensive wildlife corridor or the preservation of endangered and vulnerable birds and mammals living on the site. • The proposed prison will impact upon the 500m buffer zone and the 1km line of sight around the Wedge-tailed Eagle nest. • Calls on Council to rezone the land to environmental management. • Need to protect community use of Egmont Reserve. • Concerned about the impact of the day-to day operations on neighbouring properties. • Concerned about safety in the event of a lockdown. • Requests Council to listen to the people and stop a prison being built on the Brushy Rivulet Reserve.
<p>Patricia Sessink Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed to the proposed prison at Brushy Rivulet as an inappropriate large-scale development that is too close to historic Westbury (and neighbouring residents). • The site is a nature reserve that was purchased by the Crown for that purpose and should be protected. • Road safety and road condition concerns, if vehicle movements increase on Birralee Road. • Insufficient infrastructure to support the development, and its possible negative impact on Westbury. • Considers that Council has supported the development and not sufficiently communicated or consulted the community. • Concerned about impact of any future amalgamation of Risdon and Northern Prison, and the ability of state government to effectively manage the facility and keep community safe.
<p>Rosie Mackinnon Hagley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not supportive of proposal; concerned about process and lack of community consultation about first proposed site. • Believes Council supports the proposal, and concerned about lack of social, legal, educational, health or training benefits for locals. • Concerned about increased need for community based services by prison and lack of service to meet local need. • Council should suggest alternative sites, e.g. new youth rehabilitation and prison site at Ashley Detention Centre site • Issues with promoting tourism features of Westbury.

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<p>Lauren Brown (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not supportive of a prison at Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve. • Concerned as a young person about the future of our state and our planet, and the natural values of the site including endangered and rare species relying on the bushland for survival. • Has witnessed the impact this proposal has on mental and emotional wellbeing of the community.
<p>Jessica Brown (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong object to proposed prison at current preferred site. • Site was purchased by the Crown due to natural values and should be protected. • Concerns about community consultation and transparency. • There are other more suitable sites where protected fauna and flora will not be destroyed.
<p>John Donaldson Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes majority of Westbury community are against the idea of a prison. • Wants Councillors to represent businesses and residents and not “bow down” to state government.
<p>Wendy Travis (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not consider the location at Brushy Rivulet to be the right one. • Concerned for the mental wellbeing and future of people near the prison sight who face uncertainty in respect of property investment, lifestyle, etc. • Meander Valley Council should step up and start finding out more information. • Government should abandon all plans and stop wasting tax payer’s money.
<p>Brendan Armstrong Kings Meadows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests the site is not appropriate for a prison because of environmental values and impacts on threatened and endangered species, and the lack of essential infrastructure. • Birraleee road is narrow and not able to deal with increased traffic. • Asserts that all current activities to support or investigate a prison should cease. • The Brushy rivulet needs to formally be classified as a reserve, as initially intended for that land.
<p>Ginette Thomas (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States people elect the Council to act on ‘our’ behalf. • Expects due diligence from our Councillors and their allegiance to us (Meander Valley) and not the sitting Government. • Indicates concerns about ‘a land grab’ on a reserve that was bought with tax payers money. • Councillors can rectify the predicament and withdraw their initial motions that got this prison going in the first place.
<p>Emma Hamilton Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks explanation of historic points and decisions by previous Councils. • Calls on Council to move motion to overturn a December 2017 motion supporting a correctional facility near the Ashley Youth Detention Centre.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for a motion from Council to withdraw EOIs submitted for the proposed prison. • Expresses concerns about the public meeting and its conduct. • Asks for Council to undertake its own socio-economic study before submissions of planning applications. • Asks for immediate rezoning of the site to environmental management. • Speculates on bias and other matters relating to pro-prison groups. • Asks for a motion for Council to not work with the Government to achieve environmental offsets.
<p>Christie McLeod Hazelbrae Hazelnuts Hagley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses concern about the impact the prison proposal has had on Westbury. • Questions why Council assisted in the site selection process. • Challenges Councillor reluctance to advocate against the prison. • Expresses concern about fragile nature of the region and reputation impacts. • Speculates on the correctional system as a whole and negative benefit to Meander Valley.
<p>Linda Poulton On behalf of “Westbury Region Against the Prison” Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opines that past support of the prison by Council is in breach of Section 20 of the Local Government Act and calls on Council to rectify the situation by going back to square one. • Speculates on the independence and current site relevance of the socio-economic study. • Calls on Council to overturn a December 2017 motion supporting a correctional facility near the Ashley Youth Detention Centre. • Council should withdraw support for submissions lodged in 2018 for two Westbury sites. • Council should undertake its own socio-economic study. • Asks for planning protection for Marney’s Hill reserve.
<p>Linda Poulton Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests the public meeting is not valid under the Local Government Act 1993 (LGA). • Opines that Council has breached its obligation under the LGA to consult and involves its community. • Asserts Council should undertake community consultation “afresh”. • Restates many of the points expressed in the Westbury Region against the Prison (WRAP) written submission.
<p>Nancy McLeod Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions ability of the Tasmanian Government to run correctional facilities. • Speculates that problems experienced with Risdon Prison will be repeated and taint Meander Valley. • Wants Council to withdraw support previously given. • Council should do its own research on the advantages and disadvantage of a prison.
<p>Gina Poulton Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses her opposition to the prison being located near Westbury and particularly on the currently proposed site. • Calls on Council to overturn a December 2017 motion supporting a correctional facility near the Ashley Youth Detention Centre.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should withdraw support for submissions lodged in 2018 for two Westbury sites. • Council should do its own research on the advantages and disadvantage of a prison. • Calls on Council to go back to 'square one' on community consultation. • Calls for planning protection of the new site.
<p>Suzanne Poulton Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expresses her opposition to the Northern Regional Prison proposal. • Suggests the nature reserve location on Birralea Road is too close to Westbury. • Describes concerns about heritage values in Westbury. • Opines people are scared by the proposal to build a prison. • Requests Council withdraw its support for a prison being located in Meander Valley. • Council should do its own research on the advantages and disadvantage of a prison.
<p>Aaron Reader on behalf of "Concerned Residents Opposed to the Westbury Prison Site" Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As direct neighbours considers the Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve to be the wrong location for a prison and calls on the Government put a stop to the proposal to build the prison on the reserve site. • Expresses concerns about continuing safety in their homes and the Government's ability to protect them. • Concern about decreasing property values. • References the significant environmental values and the need to preserve these for future generations. • Suggests existing traffic safety concerns for Birralea Road will be increased because of the prison. • Missing infrastructure and the prohibitive costs associated with its provision to the current site. • Bushfire concerns, covering consistency with planning scheme requirements and also increased risk from inmate activity. • Identifies significant environmental values that warrant protection. • Noise, light pollution and other impacts on lifestyle and livestock management. • Suggests lockdown impacts such as road closures will cause disruption to tending stock, transport of goods, etc. • Calls on Council to put in place appropriate planning protections and rezone the site 'environmental management'.
<p>Denise Swain Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes the State Government's proposed Northern Regional Prison in the Meander Valley. • Is critical of Council's apparent lack of consultation and the process surrounding the choice of the previous site. • Wants Council to revoke its motion of 12th December 2017 expressing interest to the State Government for a Correctional Centre in the north to be built next to Ashley Youth Detention Centre. • Wants Council to revoke the Expressions of Interest submitted to the State Government by Council in September 2018 for the Northern Regional Prison to be located near Westbury. • Council should conduct an independent socio- economic study on the prison.

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<p>Roslyn Williams Hobart</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants Councillors to reject the proposal to build a prison on a nature reserve near Westbury. • Suggests more prisons will not solve the problem. Incarceration itself does not rehabilitate. • Requests a further look at the Ashley Detention Centre and consider an adjoining corrections facility or look at more modern ways to rehabilitate prisoners from overseas studies.
<p>Colin McQueen Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council did not follow democratic procedures when proposing a site for a new prison in Council area. • The Tasmanian government has a poor record in prison management. • A large prison would change the historic rural ambience of the area in a detrimental way. • Maximum security prisons are very expensive to operate. Tasmania does not need and could not afford to operate two maximum security prisons. • It is likely the Government's agenda is to obtain rezoning approval for a prison, and then announce it will be closing Risdon and moving all the criminals to the new prison. • Asks the Council to advise the Government that it no longer supports the citing of a new maximum security prison in the Meander Valley.
<p>Alistair Graham West Hobart</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that the State Government is acting in bad faith in seeking to build a prison on part of a site that it had previously promised to reserve for nature conservation purposes. • Urges the Meander Valley Council to reject any planning application from the State Government to do anything with the block of land in question other than to reserve it under the Nature Conservation Act.
<p>Jan Flavell (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a frequent visitor to family living in Westbury and was shocked and upset to learn that the government and the Meander Valley Council have proposed the building of a new maximum security prison just 5 kilometres north of Westbury. • Believes the community was not aware that the council had put forward this parcel of crown land to be considered for this prison, neither were they properly consulted. • Believes the prison will destroy the natural habitat of a number of endangered animals living on this land, including the Wedge-tail eagle and Tasmanian masked owl, including many endangered species of birds found only in Tasmania. • The building of the prison may deter people from moving to Westbury and others from visiting, jeopardising local business. • Urges Council and the Tasmanian Government to reconsider the positioning of this prison and to also consider alternative ways of reformation and rehabilitation instead of building yet another prison.
<p>Sandra Stening (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls upon the Meander Valley Council to revoke its support for the Northern Regional Prison pending: Commissioning an independent social and economic study on the appropriateness of a prison in the municipality, and undertaking of a thorough community consultation process.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council did not consult with the local community prior to the prison site announcement by the State Government on 30 September 2019. Nor has Council consulted since. • Our highways throughout Tasmania are under ever increasing pressure with a growing population and tourism – it makes no sense to put a prison so far from Launceston, where most of the staff and services will come from on a day to day basis. • All the issues with understaffing, lock downs and assaults at the Risdon Prison – concerned that Council sees a maximum security prison as a positive for the municipality, but State Government cannot run the current prison successfully.
<p>Jackie Ribbons Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned the proposal to build a maximum security prison in the Meander Valley is that it is highly likely to be the only maximum security prison in Tasmania. • By basing a maximum security prison in Westbury, the Government would be condemning the Meander Valley to become the correctional centre of Tasmania with all of the social problems that would bring. • Is concerned the prison would damage her local hand made in Westbury business and other businesses.
<p>Rebecca Donaldson (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted importance of ensuring that actions and decisions of Councillors and MVC staff regarding a northern prison align fully with the Code of Conduct. • Importance of ensuring that the actions and decisions of Councillors and MVC staff regarding a northern prison align with key Future Directions in the MVC Community Strategic Plan 2014-2024.
<p>Fred Duncan Cambridge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed property in 1998 as Senior Botanist with Tasmanian Forest Practices Authority (FPA). • Believes the current proposed development on the Brushy Rivulet property is a poor outcome. • The property is diverse forest, with a range of threatened species and other values. • The property was purchased with public funds to protect those values. • Much of the native vegetation has been cleared or significantly disturbed. • Within the area, and elsewhere in the municipality are other potential development sites on cleared or significantly disturbed public or private land. Cost to the Tasmanian Government of purchasing and developing an alternative site would be miniscule as a proportion of the overall costs of the proposed development, and its ongoing use.
<p>Mrs C.T. Knight Exton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prison should be close to a large town e.g. Launceston where all (emergency) services are accessible. • Disputes suggestions that a prison at Westbury would make it easier for visits – bus services are limited and are nowhere near the latest site. • The beautiful, quiet village of Westbury does not want to become known for having a large prison nearby. • Would not feel safe being alone in a rural situation if a prisoner were to escape.

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<p>Donna O’Grady Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking that the Meander Valley Council undo the damage it has caused by inviting this prison into our community. • The proposed prison site is in a bushfire prone area with only one access road. Community members, visitors, prisoners and staff will be put into a dangerous situation with limited services, mostly all voluntarily operated and under pressure now. • Would like the Meander Valley Council to reconsider to rezone the prison site in line with the previous planning scheme. • Council cannot be a party to the further destruction of endangered and rare Tasmanian wildlife and flora.
<p>Alana Hoskinson (no address supplied)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has close friends directly impacted; believes Brushy Rivulet Reserve is not the right location for a prison. • Another prison will not fix Tasmania’s broken prison system. • Site is of significant environmental value, was purchased by Tasmanian Government for this reason, and should be preserved. • Concerns about infrastructure access (electricity, water, sewerage, gas and fibre optics), road safety issues (major freight route already labelled dangerous in Government documents) and bushfire risk to staff, prisoners and residents. • Concerned about wildlife corridor running through their property allowing animals and birds to move safely. • The Tasmanian Government and Meander Valley Council should listen to the will of the people and overwhelming evidence.
<p>Torey Taylor on behalf of Birralee residents Biralee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should be acting to insist this reserve and its natural values are protected, as it was purchased for conservation. • Birralee Road is not fit for purpose and won’t safely cope with any greater traffic volumes. • There has been no community consultation or justified surveys to give reasons for either proposed site, and no EOI for current site. • Concerns about limited infrastructure and safety concerns about access to services (police, fire, hospital, ambulances). • Council should advocate for the government, or an independent body, to re-commence the site selection process.
<p>Tim Adams Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be a wise proposition to build the new prison on the site of the local detention centre (Ashley). • Preserve the natural country to the north, minimise confrontation to locals and consider sentiment and do little harm.
<p>Aaron & Olivia Reader Westbury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own adjoining property and believe the reserve is the wrong choice for a maximum security prison. • Currently running a small business in Westbury and farming operation, with a slab down to begin building. For the past 12 months, plans are on hold. Concerns around health, personal well-being and strain on family. Seeking compensation from state government for any loss of equity caused by decreased property values. • Site is of significant environmental value, was purchased by Tasmanian Government for this reason, and should be preserved. • Concerns about infrastructure access (electricity, water, sewerage, gas and fibre optics), road safety issues (major freight route already labelled dangerous in Government documents) and bushfire risk to a facility otherwise considered vulnerable. • Concerned about wildlife corridor running through their property allowing animals and birds to move safely, and wants state government to put in covenants to protect threatened species and their habitat. • Expect impact of noise and light pollution, with major effect on lambing and calving as well as light disruption to flora.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned about accessing property to attend to stock or pick up children from school if prison lockdown or road closures occur.• Meander Valley Council should rezoning reserve to "environmental management."
Harvey Gee Exton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned about the arrangements for the public meeting and difficulties for working people, elderly residents and families caused by the timing, distance and driving at night.• Council should have adopted a neutral position from the start and consulted the ratepayers it represents.