# RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

| **Recommendation** | **DCS Response & Level of Acceptance** |
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| 1. The Department should undertake a cost-benefit analysis of agricultural production at its prisons, ensuring economic data is available to inform the development of coordinated agricultural industries planning across the estate. | As part of the Department’s reform, a new organisational structure for Adult Justice Services has been developed and is being implemented. A position has been identified that will oversee industries, including prison farms. Agricultural planning across the estate will be enhanced, which will include a cost-benefit report, incorporating lessons learnt with a view to improving and consolidating the way the Department manages its agricultural industries.  *Supported in Principle* |
| 1. Pardelup should be permitted to retain a proportion of its farm revenues for reinvestment in that business. | Farm revenues are able to be retained by the Department in accordance with a determination by the Treasurer, pursuant to section 23 of the Financial Management Act 2006. The Department uses these revenues to help fund its highest priority services and activities.  *Not Supported* |
| 1. Pardelup should improve productivity of livestock enterprises by:   a) implementing feed budgets to optimise pasture utilisation to meet energy requirements for stock,  b) introducing a Lifetime Ewe Management course for staff and prisoners, and  c) implementing a risk management strategy to mitigate poor seasons. | Pardelup will ensure its Farm Management Plan optimises the management of all livestock. Farm VSO's have been directed to produce a feed budget for the upcoming season. This will be an ongoing requirement as fodder production, pasture conditions and livestock numbers vary from season to season. A risk management strategy will be developed that encompasses water supply, pasture availability, fodder production and animal husbandry. A Farm working group has been formed to facilitate a cooperative working environment between the three farms operated by the Department. This is to enable a combined budget, sharing of resources and best farming practices.  *Supported in Principle* |
| 1. The Department should ensure that VSOs are provided comprehensive entry level training within six months of commencement. | Entry Level Training for Vocational Support Officers has been reinvigorated and will be delivered within six months of their commencement.  *Supported* |

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| 1. The Pardelup visits centre should be fitted with closed circuit television cameras to monitor the interior, exterior and car park. | The structural layout of the Pardelup Visitors Centre is currently sufficient for staff to monitor and supervise prisoners and their visitors both inside and outside. The car park is already fitted with closed circuit television cameras.  *Not Supported* |
| 1. Pardelup should develop strategies and procedures to ensure that onsite staffing levels do not drop below agreed minimum manning levels, especially at night. | The staffing agreements for all prisons are determined by the respective Superintendent, Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations and members of the Western Australia Prison Officers’ Union. At times, it is necessary for the Superintendent to reassess core operational needs and daily priorities and to deploy staff as required, in accordance with section 36 of the Prisons Act 1981. Whilst every effort is made to cover staff absences, especially during night shift, if this is not possible, restrictions are put in place for prisoner movement.  *Noted* |
| 1. The Department should simplify its assessment and qualification pathway for placement at work camps, whilst effectively managing its risk. | The Department is developing a revised and validated Assessment and Classification process as part of the Integrated and Individualised Offender Management Framework. The new process will meet the needs of WA conditions, including population and target groups.  *Supported – existing Departmental initiative* |
| 1. The Department should establish a dedicated position to manage re-entry and employment services, including the Prisoner Employment Program. | It is noted that the inspection concluded that Pardelup was delivering transitional services effectively. The level of resourcing will be determined in the development of the framework for Integrated and Individualised Offender Management.  *Supported in Principle* |
| 1. The Department should review Pardelup's trial of on line ordering and delivery of town spends from a supermarket vendor for potential implementation at other facilities. | The outcomes of the trial of the online ordering system will be shared internally with other prisons that could benefit from knowing more about the system.  *Supported in Principle* |

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| 1. Consistent with practice at other prisons, a custodial officer tasked with security should be stationed at the Pardelup health centre when prisoners are present. | The two other prison farms referred to in the report are not comparable due to the significant difference in prisoner population. The Pardelup Health Centre has been fitted with a security grille and duress alarms to the desks and the examination bed. On duty custodial staff are capable of being deployed to the health centre for extended periods, as required.  *Not Supported* |
| 1. The Department should finalise the review of prisoner assessment tools, and ensure equality of opportunity for Aboriginal prisoners to progress to minimum security. | The Department is developing a revised and validated Assessment and Classification process as part of the Integrated and Individualised Offender Management Framework. The new process will meet the needs of WA conditions, including population and target groups.  *Supported – existing Departmental initiative* |
| 1. The Department should develop strategies to identify and attract suitable Aboriginal prisoners to Pardelup Prison Farm. | Strategies to identify and attract suitable Aboriginal prisoners to Pardelup Prison farm has been an ongoing consideration for Pardelup. The location of Pardelup can present issues with isolation from family members and as such requires a commitment from prisoners to want to be placed at that facility.  *Supported in Principle* |
| 1. The Department should rejuvenate services to Aboriginal prisoners at Pardelup Prison Farm including restoration of regular visits by the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme and Peer Support Officer, facilitation of elder's visits and other cultural activities, and re-establishing an Aboriginal Services Committee. | The Reconciliation Action Plan outlines the Department’s commitment to providing safer custodial environments for Aboriginal people. An Aboriginal Services Committee will be established and maintained in each prison to provide a focus on the appropriate management and delivery of services to Aboriginal prisoners. Opportunities to further develop the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme are being investigated; which has already seen enhancements such as the culturally-appropriate free telephone support commenced earlier this year.  *Supported – existing Departmental initiative* |