

MEDIA RELEASE

Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS)

Late, but still a breath of fresh air: OICS welcomes Roebourne air-con action

The Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) welcomes the government's decision to fully air condition the two main accommodation units in Roebourne Prison, after years of recommendations to do just that.

"We've inspected Roebourne several times since 2003 and been very concerned about the inhumane conditions of in-cell temperatures that could often stay above 32 degrees at night throughout the summer months," said the Inspector of Custodial Services, Eamon Ryan.

"This is a question of health and wellbeing not just individual comfort."

Mr Ryan added: "When you consider the town of Roebourne recorded a record high temperature of 50.5°C this past summer, this action can't come soon enough to fix what was a concerning health hazard to Roebourne's detainees."

"We hope the installation can be completed as soon as possible in the 2023-2024 year it has been scheduled for."

OICS latest inspection of Roebourne Prison occurred this year. A report of that inspection is already with the WA Parliament and will be published in December.

For Further Media Information

The Inspector, Mr Ryan, can be contacted for comment on 0421 480 925.