



**Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales  
Chambers of Commissioner Webster  
10 Smith Street Parramatta NSW 2150**

**2026/00209341 Industrial Relations Secretary on behalf of Corrective Services  
NSW v Public Service Association**

**Statement of the Commission**

**Background**

1. This matter comes before the Commission by way of a notification of an industrial dispute filed by the Industrial Relations Secretary on behalf of Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW). The respondent is the Public Service Association (PSA).
2. The dispute concerns developments at the Goulburn Correctional Complex, comprising the Goulburn Correctional Centre and the High-Risk Management Correctional Centre.
3. On 20 March 2026, the Minister for Corrections announced the closure of four maximum security accommodation wings at Goulburn Correctional Centre on the basis that those facilities no longer meet contemporary safety, operational and custodial standards.
4. Following that announcement, discussions occurred between CSNSW and representatives of correctional officers, including:
  - o discussions on 6 May 2026 regarding a potential limited continuation of operations in one wing; and
  - o a subsequent proposal dated 12 May 2026, advanced by the Goulburn Prison Officers Vocational Branch (GBPOVB), proposing the continued operation of all four wings and the use of the facility as a remand, reception and transit centre.
5. By correspondence dated 19 May 2026, CSNSW indicated that the proposal advanced was not consistent with prior discussions and invited further proposals consistent with those discussions.
6. On 21 May 2026 (today), members of the GBPOVB notified CSNSW of industrial action in the form of a withdrawal of labour for a period of 24 hours, commencing at 9:00am.
7. The industrial action has extended beyond the Goulburn facility, with many other correctional centres impacted by industrial action.
8. The notifier raises concerns in respect of the continuation of industrial action. Those concerns include:
  - o the health and safety of inmates within correctional facilities;
  - o the welfare of executive and other staff required to work extended or prolonged shifts in order to maintain essential operations; and

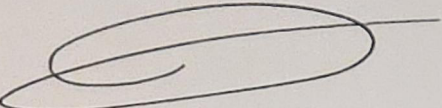




- the broader operational consequences of the industrial action across the correctional system.
9. In particular, the notifier submits that the continuation of the action is likely to have flow-on effects to other government services, including New South Wales Police, who may be unable to transfer inmates as required in the ordinary course of operations.
  10. The notifier seeks that the industrial action cease, and that the dispute be resolved through appropriate processes.
  11. The PSA contends that the issues giving rise to the industrial action concern the proposed closure of the four wings at the Goulburn Correctional Centre.
  12. The PSA submits that these matters are of significant public importance, affecting not only employees but also the broader community and the operation of the correctional system.
  13. The PSA further contends that its perspective, including proposals advanced by local members, has not been genuinely heard or considered by CSNSW, and that the industrial action has arisen in that context.

#### **Recommendations in conciliation**

14. During the course of proceedings, the parties indicated their acceptance of a recommendation made by the Commission directed towards resolving the immediate dispute and facilitating further engagement.
15. The matter will proceed on the following basis:
  - (1) The PSA is to take all reasonable steps to bring to an end the industrial action currently taking place at correctional facilities in New South Wales. This is to be communicated by at least email, Facebook and the issuing of a Bulletin.
  - (2) The parties are to participate in a conciliation to be arranged by the Commission. That conciliation is to provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue in relation to the proposed changes affecting the Goulburn facility.
  - (3) It is expected that the notifier will make available the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner involved in the relevant decisions for the purposes of that conciliation.
16. The conciliation is to take place within four to six weeks.
17. The parties have agreed that this statement, although made in conciliation, does not need to be kept confidential.

  
Commissioner Webster  
Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales

21 May 2026