



## **RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE BERRIMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**

20 May 2022

### **Who are the Blue Sox Group, and what experience have you had in projects of this nature?**

Director of the Blue Sox Group Mr Joe Wehbe has been a member of the Southern Highlands community for over 20 years. Joe has a strong held passion for the region and a firm belief and respect for its natural environment, unique local amenity, its history, and its heritage.

The group has completed numerous developments spanning land subdivision, multi-storey apartment and townhouses, commercial developments, hospitality venues and hotels - including high end, luxury and heritage listed projects.

Whilst the opportunity to re-purpose the Berrima Correctional Centre and its grounds is in its early stages our initial thoughts and vision which we would like to share with the local community is to create a vibrant, family friendly community hub which the local community and visitors to the area will be able to enjoy for decades to come.

### **What is the Intended Future Use of the Property?**

Our early ideas and vision for the Berrima Correctional Centre encompass the creation of a thriving and lively venue in the heart of Berrima that has a focus on attracting and bringing people together with immersive experiences whilst being respectful and supportive of the history and heritage significance of the site which we will maintain and enhance. Our vision is to create a useful and unique space that will become a favourite meeting place for locals and a must-see attraction for local and interstate travellers passing through or visiting the Southern Highlands region.

This vision may best be achieved through the inclusion of boutique style hotel accommodation, restaurants/cafe, event space, community engagement activity areas and spaces catering for small business opportunities such as an antique shop, art gallery bookstore or library and considerations towards public accessibility and how the history of the site may best be displayed to the public.

### **How will the project address the Heritage component of the site?**

Any re-purposing of the site will include a synergy with the history of the site, the township of Berrima and will retain the site's impressive heritage structures. The community can be assured that any re-imagining of the sites future will be sensitive to all aspects of heritage. With a firm belief that the heritage characteristics of the site are its strongest and most valuable attribute any repurposing of the centre will maintain its heritage.

Our vision for the site is founded on an underlying desire that any future use must be one of principally serving as a guardian of the history and heritage of the centre whilst bringing to the region a new and exciting place to work, visit, stay and enjoy.