

**The coroner has found that a young motorcyclist who died of his injuries in 2018, was the major cause of his own death, due to blatant reckless driving and irresponsible practices.**

**Coroner Andrew McKee concluded that 21-year-old Blake McCarthy would not have lost his life only years ago, had been driving in accordance with road rules, and not been under the influence of illegal substances like methamphetamine and THC.**

**McCarthy had numerous driving offences including being already disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence, his unregistered motorcycle had damaged front and rear lights, and was wearing dark clothing the night he crashed into a merging vehicle, inevitably throwing him from his motorbike.**

**The coroner ruled that reckless driving at excessive risk-taking speeds, coupled with self-induced intoxication and faulty lighting systems were the major contributing factors in McCarthy's death.**

**With a new prison development underway in the state's north, it's originally proposed location just on the outskirts of Westbury, has now been ditched by the Government for a more preferable location out of the public's direct sightline.**

**Corrections minister Elise Archer announced yesterday that the original, brand new 270-million-dollar prison complex on the fringe of Westbury – much to local council outcry and community opposition – would now be proposed to move a further 3 kilometres inland and outside of the town, to Birralee Road.**

**While this is still within the municipality, local Meander Valley mayor Wayne Johnston says he is pleased the**

**project is going ahead, stating it was a once in a lifetime opportunity for both the council and also local construction industries.**

**Although the newly proposed location for the prison site sits on 70 hectares of Crown forest land, this area will need to be rezoned even before development applications can be submitted by council and Government, which will also give time for pro and anti-prison groups to finalise their opinions.**

**As and with the new K-Block now officially open at the Royal Hobart Hospital, state Health Minister Sarah Courtney has mentioned how important the new facilities are, and how it will now assist in easing the pressure off the hospital's emergency department.**

**The new wing boasts five state-of-the-art operating theatres dedicated to orthopaedics, trauma and also neurosurgery, while also boasting an additional 44 beds.**

**Clinical director of surgical and perioperative services at the Royal, Professor Marcus Skinner, says the improvements are more than fantastic, and the most exciting feature is that of the teaching and learning capabilities.**

**With more advanced technology across all the new theatres, comes the ability to stream patient operations to those observing and quote "all the members in the theatre can see that case being done, and be aware of all stages as to how that case is actually going."**

**Just quickly in sports news now, Tasmanian cycling great Amy Cure has shockingly pulled out of the postponed Tokyo 2021 Olympics and followed up with the announcement of her retirement, effective immediately.**

**The 27-year-old two-time Olympian has revealed that, on top of the postponement of the upcoming Olympic games at the hands of COVID-19, she will be ending her illustrious 12-year cycling career early, to be recognised as one of the counties best.**

**Mentioning the decision being the most difficult she's ever had to make, Cure says her mind had been made up for a little while now, finishing by saying quote "I'm confident I've made the right choice, and am excited for the next chapter in my life."**

**Cure made her dramatic mark as a junior, claiming four under-19 world titles from 2009 to 2010, which included setting a world record in the individual pursuit, and as her career went on, claimed three world championships, two golds in the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018, 10 national titles, and, unfortunately, out of her two appearances, missed out on the all-important Olympic podium finish.**

**Lastly, with the Tasmanian State League enduring the longest pre-season in history, clubs have now been issued with a draft of the newly condensed 2020 roster.**

**With footy in Tasmania looking like it will begin a whole week earlier – now scheduled to begin on July 11 – this new and improved fixture now eliminates the need for teams to play three games in an eight-day stretch, now intended to have most teams play each other twice, with a two-week finals period.**

**And that's what's making news headlines on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.**