



Hon. David Templeman MLA
Minister for Heritage

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: Monday 6 May 2019

Fremantle Prison exhibition unlocks prisoner tales of protests

- *Protest and Unrest* exhibition opens at Fremantle Prison
- Confronting presentation of prison's harsh history

Fremantle Prison's history of riots and peaceful sit-outs are the focus of a new exhibition at the popular tourist attraction.

The Protest and Unrest at Fremantle Prison exhibition explores the reasons why prisoners were driven to protest, and the ways in which they voiced their dissatisfaction.

Examining the conditions and regime under which prisoners lived, the exhibition covers the final 100 years of Fremantle Prison's history as an operational maximum-security goal.

The exhibition shines a spotlight on some less well-known stories such as prisoner strikes in 1930 and 1972, and the conditions and prisoner treatment that influenced these protests. Several protests are examined in detail, using personal accounts from prisoners, officers and the administration.

The exhibition presents a confronting view of life inside, with tales of the rotten food and living conditions used as justification by prisoners for pushing back against authority.

There are also objects never displayed before, such as improvised weapons from the 1988 riot, an electric battery box and imagery of prisoner graffiti.

Visitors will be challenged by the question: in the same situation, would you protest too?

Protest and Unrest is on display at Fremantle Prison from Tuesday 7 May 2019. Entry is free.

Comments attributed to Heritage Minister David Templeman:

"This thought-provoking exhibition provides yet another unique insight into the history of Fremantle Prison and the tough conditions prisoners had to endure.

"The prisoners' stories unlock details of life behind the prison walls that would otherwise go untold.

"I congratulate our World Heritage-listed Fremantle Prison on organising yet another innovative and intriguing exhibition, and encourage anyone with an interest in our history to attend."